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## OPINION METER This week's poll:

With the recent tragedy in Connecticut, should the U.S. implement stricter gun control laws?

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### INSIDE

### **BUSINESS**



U.S. holiday retail sales this year grew at the weakest pace since 2008. ► PAGE 13

### **ASIA**



The policewoman who killed an American contractor in Kabul is a native Iranian. 

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From Manila's slum of garbage collectors emerged an unlikely Cinderella. **PAGE 17** 

Faculty president files 'evidence' report. PAGE 2
Hospital's new CT scanner expected next week. PAGE 3

# PPA entails \$18M upfront cost for CUC

» Significant power rate hikes to be enforced if deal implemented

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com

ep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) and co-plaintiffs in the ongoing court case in federal court has found an ally in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday after the agency urged the court to deny Saipan Development LLC's motion to vacate the injunction order on the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

See PPA on Page 4

### **HOLIDAY CHICKEN**

CONTRIBUTED PHO

The repaired Capital Hill Chicken is making another Christmas and Happy New Year visit after being resurrected from the boonies by the Biba Saipan Foundation. It was revived in remembrance of the fighting spirit of *man'amkos* and the late Ruth Tighe.



# DEQ touts successes of Laolao Bay project



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tim Lang, project manager for the Laolao Bay Road & Coastal Management Improvement Plan, talks about the components of the project during a recent press conference announcing the project's completion last week.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com

Future generations will be able to appreciate and enjoy the treasures that Laolao Bay holds with the completion of the Laolao Bay Road and Coastal Management Improvement Plan of the Division of Environmental Quality.

Project team members shared the successes of the \$2.6-million project, one of the 50 habitat restoration ventures funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration using an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, during a recent press conference at the DEQ office.

Project manager Tim Lang said that the awarding of the grant in June 2009 was an accomplishment in itself since the CNMI, through DEQ, was selected as a recipient out of 800 funding applications received by the grantor agency.

See DEQ on Page 4

# 'USCIS policy not fair to employers, foreign workers'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

| >>> Lawmaker

House Standing Committee on Commerce & Tourism chair Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez ( C o v e n a n t - Saipan) is supporting the posi-

(C o v e n a n t - Saipan) is supporting the position raised by three major associations of employers, and management in the

supports

position

raised by

Chamber,

CNMI with the U.S. Citizenship and

► PAGE 17 See USCIS on Page 4



2 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Local

# Faculty president files 'evidence' report

>>> Hart assures concerns will be adequately addressed

» BOR seals document pending president's reply

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D, confirmed that she indeed received the latest report of faculty president Amanda Angel-Diaz who was instructed by the Board of Regents to provide substantial "evidence" on all allegations raised by the faculty against the chief executive officer.

Without citing the specifics of the report, Hart assured yesterday that she will submit a response and vowed that all concerns will be adequately addressed soon.

The Board of Regents ordered during Friday's meeting the submission of evidentiary report from the faculty president which was due last Monday and a response thereafter from Hart. The president has until noon today to comply with the board's order.

Saipan Tribune learned that the evidence report, which was also filed at the board, remains sealed as of yesterday pending receipt of Hart's response. It is expected that the board will make a determination on the "no confidence vote" against the president in the continuation of its meeting.

In a statement to Saipan Tribune yesterday, Hart confirmed that she is in receipt of the materials that the members of the Faculty Senate submitted.

"President Hart is currently reviewing the information and indicated that she will be addressing each of the issues bers of a college accountable—

Board of Regents and its policies," indicated the college statement yesterday.

While Hart indicated that her response to the issues will be provided to the board in the time allotted, she stressed that she has always welcomed the opportunity to hear concerns "openly and inclusively."

Hart also emphasized that 'what is important now is to get down to the facts and/or issues that have been raised, address them appropriately, learn from them, and then work together to move forward for the benefit of the college, the community, and most especially the students."

During the last board meeting, Hart said that one of the most basic beliefs or values within higher education is the importance of holding all mem-

raised in a manner prescribed by especially the president—for

their judgment and decision making, not only a simple adherence to BOR policy.

"The concerns raised by members of the faculty are important and I appreciate that they have been brought forward. As

I've vowed, I will examine each and every concern and will respond to them," said Hart, adding that she remains committed to the college and will remain committed to each student, faculty, and staff member.

Hart also indicated that she is moving forward with important projects and programs, including gearing up for the upcoming meeting with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in January.

When I first arrived at the college, there were 11 ACCJC recommendations and concerns that were still unresolved, and we worked hard to reduce that by half in a relatively short amount of time. Our students, staff, and faculty continue to make important progress in meeting accreditation standards and eligibility requirements,

and I look forward to reporting this progress to the Commission in January," Hart added.

Hart also indicated that the college is preparing for the Spring 2013 semester. In the Fall 2012 semester, the college saw its second highest FTE student enrollment ever.

# Man'amko get free pneumonia vaccine



Erlinda Sanares, 80, receives a free pneumonia vaccine from a Commonwealth Health Center staffer last Thursday at the Aging Center.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

About 50 congregates at the Aging Center received last Thursday free pneumonia vaccine from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health.

Aging director Rose Mondala said in an interview that last week's vaccination is recommended to be taken twice in a lifetime or once every four years to individuals 65 years or older and diabetic patients 62 years and above.

Mondala said the pneumonia vaccine is in addition to the free flu shots that the man'amko receive once a year.

According to Mondala, she had to request for the pneumonia vaccine from Juan N. Babauta, chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., since it was not readily available.

"I called the CEO and it was really wonderful of him to send some people down at the center to administer the shots to our man'amko. These shots are expensive," said Mondala.

The free vaccinations for the island's elderly are part of the preventive health program at the center she added

Erlinda Sanares, one of the congregates at the center, said it was her first time to receive the pneumonia shot.

"I'm very thankful that they give this shot for us man'amko here at the center. This would really help me care for my health, especially since I have diabetes," she told Saipan Tribune.

The 80-year-old Sanares emphasized the importance of taking care of once health as she urged other senior citizens to take advantage of the vaccination program at the center.

### No major incident occurred during Christmas celebrations

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations in the CNMI went on quietly with no major incident reported, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

"It was pretty quiet, nice and slow," Police Officer Jason Tarkong said.

Tarkong said the DPS Tactical Response Enforcement Team was activated with a few members, including him, to back up the patrol unit, to ensure the community's safety during the Christmas Eve and Day cel-

ebrations "I've been working at night the last few days and no major thing happened," he said.

Tarkong said in addition to Boating Safety officers and Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives, TRET team was assigned to help out with the Christmas operations.

"We were just beefing up a

little of our patrol unit, making sure Saipan is safe," he said.

With respect to DPS sobriety checkpoints, Tarkong said a couple were arrested or cited on Tuesday night, Christmas Day. He said he has no complete report yet about the checkpoints. (Ferdie de la Torre)



**GREEN MEADOW CHRISTMAS PARTY** 

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The K5 class of Ms. Sony Natividad and parents of the students pose with Green Meadow School principal Mila Mejila during the school's Christmas party held last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

### Former PNG parliament officer arrested for swindling funds

PORT MORESBY, Papua with defrauding K150,000 New Guinea (The National/ PIR)—Parliament's former chief financial officer has been rearrested and charged by Papua New Guinea's National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Squad

[US\$71,506] belonging to its imprest bank account.

Charles Aopi, 47, from Alotau, Milne Bay, was released on K3,000 [US\$1,430] bail last

Aopi was initially charged with one count each of stealing, forging and uttering under the Criminal Code Act.

The enquiry team was sanctioned by Speaker Theo Zurenuoc when he took office in Sep-

Aopi was earlier arrested for false pretence against Partisan Lawyers

According to a copy of the check produced to The Na-

See FORMER on Next Page

# Hospital's new CT scanner expected next week

bought using

**CHCC funds** 

By MONETH G. DEPOSA REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's long-awaited CT scanner will finally arrive next week to replace the antiquated unit at the hospital.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with Saipan Tribune that a new Siemens Sensation 16-slice CT scanner was finally

received in Guam last Dec. 17 and is being arranged for

shipment to Saipan.

Babauta disclosed that the new medical equipment is expected on island by Jan. 3 and will be trucked over to CHC to a holding area, depending on the progress with the site preparation.

A CT scan is a computerized tomography scan. It uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of your body. Babauta revealed that CHC's radiology department has only one CT scanner that needs immediate replacement.

It can be recalled that the

### **FORMER**

From Page 2

tional, originally K200,000 [US\$95,342] was drawn on it.

However, the account from which the check was drawn had about K162,000 [US\$77,227]. He made changes and replaced it with K150,000.

He is alleged to have conspired with certain bank officers and cashed K150,000 at the Bank South Pacific, Harbour City branch.

Police said he did not have the authority of the acting finance officer and the acting clerk of parliament to do the transaction.

Aopi is the franchise owner of the Yamaros football club.

The audit team was unable to establish any documentary evidence to substantiate or verify the expenditure of K150,000 of public funds on check number 08902.

Under the Public Finance Management Act, finance secretary Steven Gibson had to give the green light for such a transaction but he was allegedly by-passed.

Center for Medicine and Medicaid Services found the malfunctioning CT scan and a broken portable X-ray unit in the hospital during its September survey visit. Medicare emphasized that the citation will not be addressed by just merely "repairing" the broken equipment.

CHCC then approved the procurement of new CT scanner in the tune of about \$300,000 from vendor Oka Services Inc. The

amount will be >> \$300K equipment paid in three installments, which will be sourced from

the hospital's revenue and collection that started to improve.

According to the CEO, the corporation is targeting the full operation of the new scanner middle of January after the removal of old unit and the site preparation as well as training of personnel. Installation of the unit alone, he said, is expected to be completed in five days.

Babauta also disclosed that CHCC will also receive a free UPS battery backup system for the new unit as relayed to the corporation by CHC radiology manager Dan Harding.

The corporation also procured recently new defibrillators in key units of the hospital following citation received from Medicare, which earlier slapped CHC with three immediate jeopardy statuses and 13 additional citations.

Although the immediate jeopardy statuses were already lifted by CMMS, the public hospital is not yet off the hook as it needs to rectify the remaining 13 conditions of participation identified by Medicare in its report. Last Dec. 17, CHCC had met the deadline submission of its latest "plan of correction" which is still being reviewed by CMMS. A visit from the federal agency is expected in the coming weeks to validate this latest submission. The fate of the CHC certification will be known in February 2013.





**HOLIDAY CHEER** 

Mount Carmel School students from four different grade levels visited congregates at the Aging Center last Thursday. The young visitors serenaded the island's elderly with an assortment of English, Chamorro, and Tagalog Christmas songs.



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Life in Motion

### **DEQ**

From Page 1

Lang said that one of the main objectives for the project is to reduce the volume of sediments getting into Laolao Bay, one of the valuable marine ecosystems on island.

According to environmental engineer Derek Chambers, among the biggest contributors of sediments into Laolao Bay are the unpaved roads that wash off to the bay during heavy rains.

The project involved several components to address the issue, including the paving of a 0.4-mile section of Laolao Bay Drive; construction of a drainage system that features a curb and catch basin and concrete sediment chamber, among others; and re-grading the rest of Laolao Bay Drive and Gapgap Road.

The project also involved re-vegetation efforts completed in September 2011, in collaboration with other local and federal agencies, said DEQ's Dr.

Rvan Okano.

Okano said a 14-acre deforested upland site was planted with 1,600 trees representing native and non-native trees that were selected because of its cultural value, medicinal properties, and ecological benefits. He said the agency has taken the lead in maintaining the re-vegetation site.

With the implementation of the project, DEQ tasked Dr. Peter Houk to head the marine monitoring efforts, designing a marine and water quality monitoring program that would assess the effectiveness of the project by measuring the coral reef health water quality in Laolao Bay.

Houk said they collected extensive baseline data in different areas of Laolao Bay before and after the project was executed, and the detailed findings will be indicated in a final conclusive report that will be readily available in the coming days.

Another important part of the project is the ongoing education and aware-

ness campaign, which involved the construction of beach signs in two locations and the development of posters and pamphlets distributed to 32 schools on island.

Total ARRA funding for the project reached \$2,604,164. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also provided additional funds amounting to \$65,926, which subsidized the construction of six stream crossings to further control erosion in the Laolao Bay area.

Lang emphasized that the project did not only have environmental benefits but also had positive impact to the island economy, having infused \$2.3 million into the private sector through 115 contracts and purchase orders and another \$300,000 to the government through indirect costs from project-specific job positions.

"This grant was awarded to the CNMI through DEQ but really, it's a CNMI project that involved a lot of work from a lot of people," he added.



PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Papua New Guinea's Outcome-based Education (OBE) will remain until a review led by a Government-appointment taskforce into the controversial curriculum is complete at the end of next year.

In the interim period all schools, from elementary to secondary schools in PNG, will use English as the medium of instruction from February 2013, replacing Tok Pisin and vernacular languages in elementary schools until the review is done. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said this yesterday at a press conference in Port Moresby, in response to the special coverage by the Post-Courier last Friday on the numerous challenges facing the education sector, including the plans by the Government to phase out the OBE.

He said when the acting Education Minister, James Marape, announced plans for the Education Department to phase out the curriculum, it was to be part of the review that the Government would undertake. "The complete review of the OBE system will take place over 12 months. When we took over government in 2001 we announced that the OBE will be gone, in line with the previous government's decision that was done in 2010," Mr. O'Neill said.

"So we wasted 2010, we wasted 2011, we wasted 2012. Not one single review has taken place, as the Government of the day demanded, whether it was Somare or our government, because people were complaining. I don't need any more excuses from anybody, 12 months is good enough (for the review)," he said.

The work of the taskforce, to be chaired by the Divine Word University

(DWU) president and Catholic priest Father Jan Czuba, will cost taxpayers between one to two million kina [US\$476,417 to US\$952,834] and have its terms of reference discussed and vetted by a special cabinet sitting in January 2013.

The Catholic Church, one of PNG's leading providers of education, last week criticized the O'Neill Government for not consulting the churches on its plans to remove the OBE.

However, Father Jan's chairing of the taskforce now enables the church to participate, which Mr. O'Neill highlighted at the press conference yesterday.

"We have agreed that Father Jan Czuba, the president of Divine Word University who is of course one of the leading educationist in the country, has volunteered to become the chairman of that taskforce that will review the OBE system over the next 12 months," the PM said. According to Mr. O'Neill, Father Jan is already in contact with key educationists including National Research Institute (NRI) director Dr. Thomas Webster, former Education Department secretary Jerry Tetaga, the principal of the Enga Teachers College and Education Department officials, who would work towards addressing the issue before the start of the 2014 academic year. The PNG Teachers Association (PNGTA) recently blamed the lack of funding and resources for the demise of the OBE, but Mr. O'Neill yesterday assured the country that his Government will not let that happen when a new curriculum is in place. "I can guarantee you that we are spending close to K2 billion [US\$952.8 million] on the education sector in 2013," the PM said.



I ARISSA V DAVID

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, left, introduces the members of the team for the Laolao Bay Road & Coastal Management Improvement Plan, the \$2.6-million project that aims to reduce the sediments getting into one of the most valuable marine ecosystems on island.

### **USCIS**

From Page 1

Immigration Services on its recent announcement about the transitional Commonwealth-only permit renewal application's policy that, according to the groups, will force foreign employees to stop working, causing severe im-

pact to the economy in the Commonwealth.

Villagomez told Saipan Tribune on Monday that he agrees with the position that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Society for Human Resource

Management-CNMI have voiced out in a letter to Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Alejandro Mayorkas.

Villagomez

"This (policy) will have an impact on the economy as a whole all the way down to the individual employee," the lawmaker pointed out.

USCIS Honolulu district director David Gulick, at a Chamber of Commerce's meeting on Dec. 5, 2012, and on Dec. 6, 2012 before the SHRM-CNMI, informed the associations for the first time that all those CW-1 permit holders that were applying for renewal of their CW-1 permits would not be allowed to continue working if their CW renewals are not approved before their original employment permits expired.

Gulick stated that without a valid permit past the original CW permit expiration date, the alien worker "no longer has employment authorization."

USCIS recommends that employers file renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the original permit's expiration.

But Villagomez noted that it is not the fault of the employers that the processing of the permits is too slow.

"On top of that, it is not fair that the employers and employees get this kind of treatment because of it," Villagomez said.

The lawmaker is hoping that the federal government, will allow some kind of extension granted to those who are all in line with USCIS requirements.

As of Dec. 5 and 6, 2012, of the original 12,247 filings for CW-1 employment permits filed by December 2011, over 2,500 permit applications reportedly remain pending with the USCIS Center

In their letter to Mayorkas, Chamber president Douglas Brennan, HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa, and SHRM-CNMI chair Deborah Camacho cited that at the end of 2011, during the initial CW-1 permit application process, an extension for those applying was granted so as to allow those employers and employees utilizing the CW-1 permit transitional period program to not suffer economic hardship.

The groups' leaders requested Mayorkas that similar consideration be provided, and that those original CW-1 permit holders having applied for renewal permits within the recommended 90-day advance application processing be allowed to continue working for their respective employers.

The leaders said forcing foreign employees to stop working will cause severe impact to their personal lives and the lives of their families and also to the economy in the Commonwealth.

### **PPA**

From Page 1

In a 15-page document filed by CUC counsel Deborah E. Fisher, the utilities firm said the injunction is necessary until the motions to dismiss are determined because of the following

First, the SDLLC waived its objection to personal jurisdiction by failing to raise the defense in its October 5, 2012 motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(h).

"Because SDLLC's motion to dismiss did not raise personal jurisdiction as a defense, that argument has been waived pursuant to the rule and is not a basis to vacate the injunction," stated CUC's latest filing yesterday.

Secondly, CUC argued that if it proceeded based on the PPA and related escrow and guarantee agreements, this will entail approximately \$18 million in costs up front for which CUC estimates it will need an immediate increase in its rates.

According to CUC, the PPA contains a number of clauses, which suggest that the agency will have to expend funds just to implement the PPA. Some of these costs, it added, cannot be quantified at this time. But among the definitive expenses under the PPA included \$9.5 million for a substation to connect a new power plant, which costs will have to get from customers. The PPA provides in Section 5.5 that the CUC is responsible for all interconnection facilities and this include a substation, transformers, and associated equipment.

The lifting of injunction, based on the declaration of CUC CFO Charles

Warren, the agency will need to seek an immediate rate hike of approximately 88 percent over one year or 45 percent over two years to its electric base rate to fund for a new diesel power plant.

CUC added that in decommissioning and removal of the old substation and plant, estimated expenditure is \$3 million plus a contingency of \$2 million for unseen expenses—all to be sourced from ratepayers.

Additional expenses for CUC is the escrow account reserve required by PPA which is \$3.8 million. The agency added that there remains many unknown costs on the deal which may result in added millions for the ratepayers before and after the construction of a new power plant.

CUC said "plaintiff is likely to prevail on the merits as the PPA is illegal on its face and did not meet CUC procurement regulations or CNMI legal requirements."

CUC, under its regulation, is required to procure any design build own transfer project under its procurement rules and statute. CNMI law, it added, also requires that CUC procure any design build own or transfer project. This means the statute does not provide a sole source procurement option for a power plant; no contract may be awarded to any contractor who is not already permitted in U.S. or international jurisdiction or who has not operated a major source of emission in accordance with EPA regulations for at least five years.

Because the "PPA contract" does not contain signatures of the CUC executive director and its CFO or comptroller, therefore the agreement is void, the utility added.

# Reyes says ex-Lt. Gov. has suffered enough

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) said former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez should not undergo new sentencing and face more jail time as he "already suffered enough."

In an interview on Friday,

would be unfair to go back and made a mistake. Why did you port that," the senator added. retry something that has already make a mistake?" the senator been tried.

don't ΥT know if double jeopardy is going to come to play here.

The sentence has already been handed out to the conviction of the crimes. And it is not fair that Reyes said in his opinion it you go back again and say we

>> Senator believes to hold new sentencing is unfair

be re-sentenced again. "If they are going to reduce the sentence, then I would sup-

personal opinion the former

lieutenant governor should not

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has recently ordered the U.S. District Court for the NMI to conduct a new sentencing of Villagomez, who is currently in federal prison after being found guilty of charges relating to a scheme

Samoa villagers claim no warnings before cyclone hit

to defraud the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp., through needless purchase of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

The Ninth Circuit vacated Villagomez's sentencing after finding U.S. District Court for the NMI then chief judge Alex R. Munson erred in calculating his sentence.

With the new sentencing, there is a possibility that Villagomez could face more jail time.

The appellate court, however, upheld Munson's rulings with respect to the appeal of Villagomez's and co-defendants, former Commerce secretary James A. Santos and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos.

In August 2009, Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison, and sentenced the Santos couple to six years and six months in jail.

### American Samoa govt settles discrimination lawsuit

PAGO PAGO, American Sa**moa** (AP)—An age discrimination lawsuit against the American Samoan government has been settled.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced Thursday that the result will be the reinstatement of government workers who were ousted because of their age, as well as a process to prevent age discrimination in the future.

The EEOC claimed that American Samoa government workers were allegedly forced into retirement or reassigned into undesirable positions to create jobs for younger Samoan workers in a widespread campaign in 2009. The campaign targeted employees over the age of 50.

The government has agreed

to create a reinstatement process for employees over the age of 40 who were terminated or forced into retirement. It also will appoint a compliance overseer and provide training on age discrimination laws to prevent future abuses.

Evelyn V. Langford, director of the American Samoa Department of Human Resources, said she is pleased with the outcome of the case "as it affirms our sustained commitment to our employees and upholding federal employment laws.

"Although we never doubted our compliance with federal discrimination laws, this has provided a great opportunity to work cooperatively with the EEOC to strengthen the government's commitment to employee rights even further," Langford said.

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Ob-

server/PIR)—Residents in one trated resident. of several villages in Samoa severely savaged by Cyclone Evan on the southwest of Upolu

Reyes said

he believes that

Villagomez has

suffered enough

and that in his

are not impressed. Salamumu villagers are unhappy saying the country should have been warned two days in advance before the Cyclone arrived.

Va'a Ioane lost the roof of his house and all his properties.

"We knew nothing about this cyclone," he told the Samoa Observer. "It snuck up on us and nothing in our house could be saved. Everything is damaged."

Twelve days after Cyclone Evan, Va'a said they have not received any help.

"To this day we have received no help from anyone, government, disaster management, no one. It seems like we do not matter."

Tulua Tagaloa is another frus-

"I've lost my kitchen, our house is ruined, everything inside is wrecked," she said.

Ms. Tagaloa said their village felt the full force of the cyclone much earlier than most people in Upolu.

"The cyclone was at its worst by nine o'clock on Thursday morning here," she said. "At that time, there was only a strong wind warning. We were not even told that it was full cyclone.

"I hear that Apia was not hit until about five. I think we could have been warned a day before.'

Levao Ila Matua, another resident who has lost his house, said Cyclone Evan should be a wake up call to everyone – especially the Meteorology Office.

'I think it's better to have

people prepared than leaving it too late," Levao said. "It takes time to board up the houses and protect our properties. We feel like there was not enough warning and it's almost like this cyclone sneaked up on us."

Levao is also concerned that the government officials have yet to visit their village.

"I've been hearing that a government assessment visit was coming around," he said. "Where is it? They certainly didn't come through here. To this day, we are still waiting."

Cyclone Evan certainly left its mark on Salamumu. Having demolished the Sa'Moana Resort which provides jobs for the villagers, the cyclone also blew off the roof of the village's primary school.

LevaoIla lives a few meters from the school. He and many other villagers whose houses were destroyed sought refuge in the home of Mata'afa Apoua.

"We are in the cyclone season," he said. "I urge the Meteorology Office that when they suspect a cyclone, please warn us. E lelei a le maoi mea lelei, even if it's strong winds or whatever. Let the people know anyway." Levao said a lot of time and money could be saved if people were better prepared.

Last week, the Samoa Meteorology Office repeatedly denied claims that there were not enough warnings about Cyclone Evan. But Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi conceded that perhaps the language used during the official weather bulletins was too technical. He urged the weather office to use simple language so that people would easily understand.



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Cleaning Services for NMHC's Central Office in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Cleaning Services for NMHC's Central Office in

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, December 3, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., at the MMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour NMHC's Central Office that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference is considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC's Corporate Director, Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 14, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked <u>NMHC-IFB 2012-011</u>. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than 10:00 a.m., local time Friday, December 28, 2012. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, December 28, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service of the original powerpart postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday December 28, 2012, and must be received at or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday, December 28, 2012, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than Monday, January 7, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 8:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, Ja **ry 8, 2013**. Howev were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time on Friday, December 28, 2012.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1,2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMÍ Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply



Saipan Tribune Inc. • Tels.: (670) 235-2440; 235-8747; 235-6397; 235-2769

# Employer sued for ignoring minimum wage law

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

An employee of more than four years sued her former employer based on island for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act after she was denied the minimum wage imposed for CNMI workers and failure to pay proper overtime compensation for her services.

Chinese national Yu Xuan, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, filed in federal court a complaint against Joo Yeon Corporation and Se Young Corporation and the companies' respective officials— Yang-Tack Hwang and Young-

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

**CNMI GOVERNMENT** 

INVITATION TO BID ITB13-CHC-054

"PURCHASE OF 5,000 PIECES OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES

WITH CARBINER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, <u>LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE</u>, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CMMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROXANNE DIAZ PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

**CNMI GOVERNMENT** 

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROXANNE DIAZ PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

NVITATION TO BID ITB13-CHC-055

**URCHASE OF 5,000 PIECES OF GYM TOWELS FOR** 

Xuan sued her former employers for Fair Labor Standard Act violation for unpaid minimum wage; violation of Commonwealth Minimum Wage and Hour Act for unpaid minimum wage; FLSA violation for unpaid overtime compensation; MWHA violation for unpaid overtime compensation; and breach of contract.

Based on court documents, Xuan began her employment with the defendants in or about June 2008, upon the approval of then NMI Labor Department. Her contract was set to expire on Nov. 20, 2009. Under the contract, Xuan was

hired as tour counselor who would work on a flexible schedule and would be paid \$4.05 per hour plus overtime. Under the same contract, the employee's rate is the subject to an increase based on minimum wage law.

was promoted to a higher position and thus wage rate was adjusted to the then-minimum wage rate of \$4.55 per hour in

But on Sept. 30, 2010, Xuan was not provided the proper minimum wage of \$5.05 per In the succeeding year, Xuan hour and an overtime rate

# Register now for Jr. High Mock Trial

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invites 7th and 8th grade classes from around the Commonwealth to register for the 2013 Junior High Mock Trial Program.

According to the council's executive director Scott Russell the mock trial program is held annually to help junior high school students develop useful knowledge about the law and courtroom procedures in an enjoyable, non-competitive format.

The program also readies participants for the competitive mock trial program at the high school level.

Each participating mock trial team is headed by a teacher coach and receives periodic legal advice and guidance from a lawver coach.

Russell said that the council

will offer a mock trial workshop for interested new teacher coaches in January. The council will also help schools find lawyer coaches, if required.

The mock trial final event will be held in April 2013 at a courtroom in the Guma Hustisia. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will serve as the mock trial judge.

Registration forms, mock trial rules, and this year's case materials are available on the council's website at www. nmihumanities.org and at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai.

Interested teachers are invited to contact the council's program officer, Eulalia Villagomez, at 235-4787 for more information about this upcoming program. (PR)

upon renewal of her contract.

On Oct. 15, 2012, Xuan was terminated from her employment without cause.

Xuan is seeking payment for all her services to the company,

### including unpaid overtime pay. She is also seeking incidental and consequential damages for defendants' material breach of the employment contract, and fees for her attorney.

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### **Farmer's Market revised** schedule

This is to inform the general public that the Tuesday Farmer's Market normally scheduled on Dec.25, 2012 and Jan. 1, 2013 shall be moved to Monday, Dec. 24, 2012, Christmas Eve, and Dec. 31, 2012, New Year's Eve.

Regular schedule for Tuesday Farmer's Market shall resume on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, after the holidays. (PR)

### **Volunteers sought for** Kagman after-school program

The Kagman Community Center wants to run an after-school program starting Jan. 7, 2013. It will open rooms for those who want to do homework, read books and study intensively. The center is inviting educators, students, and parents to join this movement. Certificates of volunteerism will be issued to the high school or college students who will help the kids. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or kagmancommunity@gmail.com. (PR)

### **Change to Energy Star Rebate Program**

The CNMI Energy Division is informing all prospective recipients of the Energy Star Rebate Program that the redemption period for all appliance rebate vouchers will now be for 30 days from date of issuance, instead of 90 days, as indicated in the terms and conditions of the program.

All Residential Energy Star Rebate Vouchers must be redeemed within 30 days and not 90 days upon issuance of voucher. Extensions on vouchers will not be granted.

For more information, contact Shawn Pangelinan at CNMI Energy Division/ Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Office at 664-4487/4489/4490. (PR)

### Weatherization applications now available

The Weatherization Assistance Program for Low Income Families began its program effective Dec. 1, 2012. WAP applications are available at the Energy Division Office On Capital Hill, building #1337 or by accessing it via the Energy website at: www. cnmienergy.com under Weatherization Assistance Program applications. If you have any questions regarding the program, contact program manager Lorraine M. Seman or Eugene C. Borja, auditor, at 664-4481. (PR)

### **Tinian Municipal** Scholarship applications open

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship board would like to inform the general public that the 2013 spring semester, academic year 2012-2013 application is now available. Visit our office on the first floor of Villagomez Building, Tinian Mayor's Office. Applications will be provided upon request via tinianscholarship@ gmail.com, or you may pick up a copy at the mayor's office reception desk. Applications and requirements must be submitted on or before Dec. 31, 2012. For more information, contact Ann Marie H. Crisostomo at (670) 433-2200. (PR)



/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

"FABRICATION OF TEN (10) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) BUOYS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, <u>LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE</u>, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FINDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

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/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ JUAN N. BABAUTA CEO, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 1:30 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) ANCHORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

**CNMI GOVERNMENT** 

INVITATION TO BID ITB13-DLNR/DFW-047

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"DEPLOYMENT OF FAD SYSTEM IN CNMI WATERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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### **NOTICE OF MEETING** NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE **BOARD OF REGENTS SPECIAL MEETING**

**Time:** 9:30a.m. Place: Northern Marianas College BOR Conference Room Saipan Campus

Date: Friday, December 28, 2012

**Call Meeting to Order** 

Roll Call

Review and Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.

III. **Old Business** 

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS SECRETARY OF DLNR

Vote of No Confidence

IV. Executive Session

(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged confidential).

V. **Board Meeting Assessment** 

Adjournment VI.

/s/

Juan T. Lizama BOR Chairperson Date: December 26, 2012

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758 Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859

Attorney for Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: VICENTE D. MAGOFNA,

Civil Action

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION

Date: January 8, 2013 Time: 1:30 pm Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE VICENTE D. MAGOFNA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rosalina M. Magofña, Administratrix of the Estate of Vicente D. Magofna, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution. The attorney for Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public

for Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public land Trust is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 8th day of January, 2013 at 1:30 pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 15th day of November, 2012.

Clerk of Court /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Lolida Exra Jimmy P.O. Box 7803 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone No. (670) 234-3306

and

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FCD GU

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 12-0565

NOTICE OF

IN RETHE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF LOLIDA EZRA JIMMY, AS GUARDIAN OF

0.D.J. (d.o.b 10/17/2002) D.R.J. (d.o.b. 11/14/2006),

Minor Children By LOLIDA F7RA IIMMY

Petitioner

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Lolida Ezra Jimmy, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 10th day of January, 2013 at 10:30am or as soon as thereafter.

> Patrick V. Diaz Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

# Arctic Circle turns down \$3M loan offer from RI bank

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. has turned down a \$3-million loan offer from the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank, saying that the proposal came with "too much restrictions."

Tony Pellegrino, president of the cargo airline that aims to revive the CNMI's agriculture industry, said during the Commonwealth Development Authority board meeting Friday that Independence Bank offered them a loan guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Pellegrino informed CDA's

Development Corp. Division that the loan offer initially got them ecstatic until the "conditions came out of the woodwork."

He said that over 100 terms and conditions accompanied the loan, including the need to put six of his companies—Arctic Circle Air and five other businesses that he put up on his own—as collateral for the loan.

Additionally, the loan comes with over \$250,000 in fees and interest, would not allow the company to make its decisions such as increasing the salaries of employees or paying vendor invoices unless approved by the banking institution that special-

izes in U.S. government guaranteed loans.

"I'm not that desperate, I'm sorry," said Pellegrino.

Pellegrino and CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho confirmed that Independence Bank director Michael Sammartino recently visited the island for a week, touring not only the Arctic Circle Air office but also Pellegrino's shrimp farm and slaughterhouse facilities.

"He was here, and he only has good things to say about everything with his visit," added Camacho.

Pellegrino, who has been a businessman for 50 years, said

he was able to put up Arctic Circle Air on his own, investing his own money, securing a loan and getting investors to put in the needed \$1.2 million to purchase the Britten-Norman aircraft which arrived last Sept. 21 or about a year since plans to establish a cargo airline were announced.

Arctic Circle Air secured a 4,000-square-foot warehouse space at the airport and formerly used by Continental Airlines, another 3,000 sq-ft of administrative offices, as well as hired operations staff before it began shipping agricultural produce and other types of cargo last month.

From only one flight a week, the company increased its shipment to twice a week beginning on its fourth week, and is currently flying up to five times a week to accommodate the increased cargo demand this holiday season.

Paul Zak, Arctic Circle Air vice president for marketing, also revealed during Friday's meeting that the Federal Aviation Administration made it official that the airline company is no longer headquartered in Alaska but on Saipan—a "tricky and longer move than we thought but it's now been accomplished."

Last Friday, Arctic Circle Air had its first day of shipping mail as a subcontractor, and the company also accepts charters to transport passengers between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We have grown faster than

we anticipated," said Zak as he informed CDA about their plans to purchase a second plane as part of their expansion phase which they did not anticipate until after a few more months.

He disclosed that they are already looking at three different configurations for the additional plane, and the amount they need would depend on the configuration they would select.

Zak labeled the agency as an "equal partner" given its \$600,000 loan to Arctic Circle Air.

"We have now done something that nobody else has ever done. We're now a locally owned airline that's operational here. The question now is how do we expand the opportunities that we have come up with," he added.

# Over 50 of 80 report campaign spending Willagomez told Saipan Tribush the state of Saipan Tribush the Saipan Tribush the state of Saipan Tribush the Saipan Tribush the state of Saipan Tribush the st

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com

As of 3:15pm yesterday, 16 more of an estimated 80 candidates and political parties in the Nov. 6, 2012 mid-term elections tried to beat the deadline in filing their detailed campaign statement of account with the Office of the Public Auditor.

An hour before yesterday's 4:30pm deadline, there were now over 50 candidates, including the 16, who have so far filed their campaign finance report.

The exact number of those who made it to the deadline will be known today, Thursday.

Viol Diaz, OPA administrative assistant, said a lot of candidates called in, requesting for an extension to file.

Diaz said the extension to file will have to be requested from the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Diaz said she started calling the candidates since last week in order for them avoid paying a \$100 fine a day.

Of the 16 who beat the deadline yesterday, four are incumbent lawmakers—Reps. Ralph Demapan (Covenant-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Covenant-Saipan), and Edmund S. Villagomez (Covenant-Saipan). Villagomez told *Saipan Tri-bune* that he spent from his own pocket less than \$2,000 for his campaign. He said he could not remember how much donations came in as it was his secretary who worked on everything.

Villagomez said the reason why he filed on the deadline day is that they are taking the campaign finance report seriously so every penny is accounted for.

"We just want to make sure things will jibe or reflected on," the lawmaker said.

Pursuant to Public Law 12-18 or the NMI Election Reform Act of 2000, those required to file a mandatory, complete, signed, dated, and verified campaign statement of account include winners and losers in the election.

### **GUAM BRIEFS**

# Court upholds conviction in child rape case

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Supreme Court of Guam has upheld a lower court ruling in the case of a convicted child rapist and molester. Last year, Felix Manibusan George was convicted of raping and molesting a minor. *The Pacific Daily News* reported Monday that George appealed his conviction after the victim recanted her accusations. George maintained that there was not sufficient evidence to support his conviction.

He is serving three concurrent life sentences for the charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, as well as other sentences for the remaining crimes. The court on Friday let the conviction stand. It found that the essential elements of the case were beyond a reasonable doubt.

### Guam to spend large on school patrols

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — Guam's Department of Education wants security officers to patrol the island's schools in an effort to stop copper wire ban-

dits. The Pacific Daily News says since the beginning of this month, six schools have been hit by thieves. That means those classrooms have been left without air conditioning. Two schools were hit twice. The thefts have cost the department about \$70,000 in repairs. DOE is anticipating spending between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for security to patrol the island's campuses over the next few weeks. Gov. Eddie Calvo on Wednesday approved the request for an emergency procurement declaration.



### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

Public Notice Request for Qualifications For the Provision of Mechanical Engineering Services

### RFQ13-GOV-028

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Commonwealth") are requesting qualifications ("RFQ") for the provision of mechanical engineering consulting services for the inspection, evaluation, and recommendation concerning the heating ventilating and air conditioning equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center ("CHC").

The Scope of Work associated with RFQ13-GOV-028 is available from the Office of Capital Improvement at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 (670) 664-2375. Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on three factors as identified in the table below.

Proposal Element	Ranking
Experience of the individuals who would be assigned to the project	60%
Proposed approach	40%

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 28, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). All proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ13-GOV-028 Healthcare Consulting Proposal in the required format and must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 08, 2013 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base P.O. Box 510008 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid ("Notice of Intent to Bid"). Notices of Intent to submit qualifications must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 08, 2013 (ChST), and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For firms located outside the CNMI, the submission must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Tuesday, January 08, 2013 and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., January 17, 2013 (ChST).

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 Saipan, MP 96950



### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

- **A.** *Public hearing.* In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Thursday*, *December 27*, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of *Saipan Surfrider, LLC*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *construction and operation of a resort hotel*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.
- **B.** *Nature of hearing*. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.
- C. *Further information*. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan Executive Director

# **NMC** announces TSL Foundation scholars

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and the Northern Marianas College recently announced the recipients of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship Program. From a highly competitive selection process, the following students were selected:

- Alforeza III, Severino P.
- Lacorte, Joy B.
- Leung, Olivia E.
- Manabat, Alvi Jane F.
- Palero, Joana P.
- Santos, Amanda W.
- Shrestha, Nisha M.
- Tabucol, Carl John T.
- Teregeyo, Coquina T.
- Valencia, Aireen A.

The scholarship program is part of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation's ongoing efforts to promote higher education among CNMI students. The program awards \$1,000 per scholarship to students majoring in hospitality management, business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and education.

"We recognize the central role that the Northern Marianas College plays in the personal and professional developmen t of CNMI students-and, on a larger scale-the CNMI's workforce," said Tan Holdings president, Jerry Tan. "We want to support that role by providing financial assistance to students who have the potential to excel academi-

### NMC sets Spring 2013 student orientations

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting student orientations for the upcoming Spring 2013 semester on Jan. 2, 7, 9, and 10.

The student orientations are hosted to assist new students and returning students (who did not take courses at NMC in the Fall 2012 semester or Intersession Term), learn more about various educational programs, services, and resources available at the college.

The orientations will also provide students the opportunity to meet NMC staff, faculty, and other students before the start of the Spring semester. NMC will be hosting student orientations on the following dates:

cally and professionally."

The Tan Holdings Foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. These partners represent many different

### NMC Spring 2013 Student Orientation Schedule

- Jan. 2: New & Returning Student Orientation in Room D-1 (9am-12pm)
- Jan. 7: International Student Orientation at the NMC Student Center in Building J (9:30am-12:30pm)
- Jan. 9: New & Returning Student Orientation in Room D-1 (4pm-7pm)
- Jan. 10: New & Returning Student Orientation in Room S-1 (4pm-7pm)

Participation in a student orientation is a requirement for enrollment. New or returning students who do not attend a student orientation will not be

backgrounds and income levels. The TSL Foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live.

"We are very grateful to the Tan Siu Li n Foundation for once again providing this scholarship," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart. "The financial assistance will definitely make a significant impact in helping students pursue their educational goals."

able to register for courses during the week of Spring 2013 registration, which begins on Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled student orientation listed in the calendar, contact the Office of Student Activities and Leadership at 234-5498 ext. 1253.

New students who have not applied for admission and are reminded that the deadline to apply for admission to NMC is on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013. For more information about applying to NMC and/or the Spring 2013 semester, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

The scholarships are based on merit and are awarded on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The written essay also plays a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The selection committee was composed of NMC staff, faculty, and a representative from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. (NMC)

# A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 27, 2000

### Teno OKs \$7.4-M budget for Tinian legislative delegation

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has approved the budget request of the Tinian legislative delegation, giving the island municipality additional \$7.42 million to spend for this fiscal year. But he expressed concerns on key provisions of the appropriation measure, particularly for retroactive pay for employees with salary increase of less than \$40,000. Instead of vetoing the local bill passed by the Tinian legislative delegation and the municipal council on Dec. 5, Mr. Tenorio urged legislators from the municipality to correct the questionable provisions. "Every year, we are faced with the same concerns which contribute to the delay in taking action on the measure," he said in signing Tinian Local Ordinance 8-1, adding the changes are needed "so that we are not confronted with them again next fiscal year."

### Sablan gets Council backing on new post

Newly-installed Public Auditor Michael Sablan received the full support of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council as he formally assumes his new position after having been confirmed by both houses of the CNMI Legislature. The Municipal Council adopted a resolution backing his appointment by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as chief of the Office of the Public Auditor, replacing Leo M. LaMotte who resigned from the position earlier this month. The Council also lauded the governor's decision to choose the next public auditor from the pool of local accountants qualified under existing regulations to hold the highest OPA position.

### Dec. 27, 2001

### Senate panel probes OPM appointment

The Senate committee that is looking into the appointment of Norbert S. Sablan as the CNMI government's Personnel Officer will be reviewing Friday the complaint filed by those who had initially applied for the position but were rejected by the Civil Service Commission in favor of Sablan. According to Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, Chair of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, his committee will be looking at the issues raised by the applicants and see whether they contain merit, warranting deeper investigation. "It is only fair that we also look into their complaints and see whether they are meritorious. We have already received the letter they sent and we will be looking at all angles, including the response of the CSC to the complaints," Adriano said.

### Hakubotan sued for breach of contract

Two Saipan-based companies have lodged civil complaints against Hakubotan Saipan Enterprises Inc. for alleged breach of contract. Saipan Sunzen Co. Ltd. and Moylan's Insurance Underwriters (Int'l) Inc. each filed a civil suit before the Superior Court on allegations that the shopping firm failed to settle its outstanding dues to the plaintiffs. Court documents reveal that magazine publisher Saipan Sunzen had provided advertising services to Hakubotan in 2001, but the latter allegedly failed to pay for the services rendered.

### Dec. 27, 2002

### **Benefits of Prior Service families threatened**

Unless the U.S. Congress appropriates additional funding in the next two months, families of Prior Service beneficiaries-at least 2,000 of them-would not receive their monthly benefits. Prior Service Trust Fund administrator Jerry Facey, who had just returned from Washington D.C., disclosed this yesterday, saying the trust fund balance has fallen below \$400,000. Because of this, the Prior Service administration has developed a strategy that would be used to prolong the Fund's existence to enable it to maintain a consistent lobbying effort in Washington, said Facey.

### PSS, CUC to sign new MOU on water supply

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Public School System have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding in connection with the water treatment and facility maintenance in certain schools. "We're in the process of coming up with an MOU. We have to sit down with them and come up with the final agreement," CUC water division manager Jess Castro said. He said the MOU aims to transfer to the CUC the responsibility to oversee and maintain school water tanks. "The way I look at it, the bulk of responsibility is going to come back to us," Castro said. He said, though, that the CUC will ask the PSS to help in maintaining the water facilities. "We'll ask them to assist us because they're always there," he said.

# Tasi Tours donates \$1K in ETC to SSHS

For more than five years now, Tasi Tours has generously donated \$1,000 worth of ETC (Educational Tax Credit) to Saipan Southern High School.

SSHS said the donated amount will be used to purchase daily operation necessities such as rolls of toilet tissue, paper towel, hand soap, hand sanitizers, as well as gasoline for the riding mowers.

"These necessities are significantly needed to provide students with a safe, clean and orderly learning environment. Because of the budget cuts many of the schools in the CNMI are currently facing, such donations go a long way and is a big help," said vice principal Lynn Mendiola.

Representing Tasi Tours in the check presentation was David Igitol.



Mendiola said SSHS would like to publicly recognize Tasi Tours for their continuous support.

"We welcome any amount of ETC donations. Once again, a big 'Manta' thank you to Tasi Tours!" she said. *(PR)* 

# 11-hour water outage for As Lito, Fina Sisu residents The Commonwealth Utilities tension and Exploring Drive- to return service to our custom-

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the residents of As Lito and Fina Sisu and areas of Koblerville that an 11-hour water outage is

scheduled for Friday, Dec. 28, from 8am to 7pm.

The purpose of this water outage

is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC, Inc. to connect an 8-inch bypass line at the As Perdido Road and Chalan Msgr. Martinez Rd intersection. This project is part of the San Vicente Service Area Extension and Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project.

The water outage will af-

that an 11-hour water outage is fect residents along the Chalan scheduled for Fri-

**Portions of Koblerville also affected**Msgr. Martinez Rd. from Shell Dandan to ABCD Market and the whole

Fina Sisu Village.

This project will improve system pressure at the Koblerville Homestead and provide a more reliable water system.

CUC's operations team and GPPC Inc. will be working hard

to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as possible.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites. CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption.

For questions, contact Larry Manacop, CUC's Water/Wastewater Engineer, at 235-7035/32 ext. 150. (CUC)



Have a wonderful birthday to our dear Roger Vales, we wish you all the best in life, keep being healthy and more birthdays to come. From your Golden Racquet Badminton Club and Sun Palace Hotel.

# Yana is new Bayani Association president

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A long-time member of the Bayani Association was chosen to lead next year one of the biggest Filipino organizations in the CNMI.

Olive Yana, a Bayani Association member since the '90s, was elected as president by two-thirds of the membership present during an election held last Dec. 8, coinciding with the group's annual Christmas party.

Besides Yana, other elected officers who would serve in their new positions from 2013-2014 are: Mario Mayuga, vice president; Ana Santos de Guzman, vice president-external; Yolly De Ramos, secretary; Ana Mercado, treasurer; Angela Estioco, assistant treasurer; Lorna Barro, auditor; Rose Arriola and Marie Paz Caamic, public relations officers; Emil Garra and Reynaldo Garcia, marshals.

"I did not expect to be elected or even nominated as an officer

of the group. This is the first time that I was elected and I'm very honored that I got our members vote of confidence," Yana said in an interview.

Yana, who already served as president of the umbrella group United Filipino Organization from 2010-2011, noted that it would be "very challenging" to be president of Bayani Association following the departure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan.

Bayani Association, which was founded by graduates of the livelihood and skills upgrading classes offered by the consulate, has been active in the community through their cultural performances in various events and their participation as volunteers for the consulate-sponsored quarterly health screenings.

Yana said that Bayani Association would carry on these events and activities even with the closure of the consulate, taking the lead in organizing the health screenings for Filipino



Incoming Bayani Association president Olive Yana, center, is flanked by outgoing president Lolly Velasco and another member during the Paskong Pinoy 2012 event held on Dec. 15 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

workers in the Commonwealth in collaboration with UFO.

Citing the importance of having additional skills among Filipinos on the islands, Yana said the group will look at continuing the livelihood training courses used to be offered by the consulate, under the guidance of the Guam Consulate which took

over the consular responsibilities in the Northern Marianas.

Additionally, Bayani Association will continue performing cultural presentations at events and revive its newsletter to keep group members in the loop, she added.

Although most of Bayani members have become inactive or have left the islands for good, Yana vowed to work on getting the members who are still around to get involved in group activities and events.

"Our organization cannot succeed without the support from both officers and members," she told Saipan Tribune. "I call on every Bayani member to do their part because this will be a very trying year for all of us. But if we all come together as one, we won't fail."

Yana said they will schedule a meeting to formulate and agree on projects that Bayani Association will pursue next year. They will also schedule an installation ceremony for all incoming officers of the group.

"I really feel blessed and grateful that the members demonstrated their faith in me by electing me as president. Together with all the officers, we will do our best as we take charge of Bayani Association next year," she added.

swimming-related

SANTA RITA, Guam—Elec-

tronics Technician 3rd class Nicho-

las Barrett assigned to USS Buffalo

(SSN-715) died last Dec. 24 during

a swimming-related incident at Pa-

He was transported to Naval

Hospital Guam and pronounced

dead at 3:50pm local time. Pre-

liminary medical assessments

indicate the death was caused

by head trauma and drowning.

The incident is under investiga-

tion by Navy Criminal Investi-

gative Service and official cause

of death is pending the results of

friend to everyone in the crew,"

said Cdr. Rick Seif, Commanding

Officer of Buffalo. "His strong

work ethic and positive attitude

were infectious. The thoughts and

prayers of the entire crew are with

his family and friends during this

most difficult time. He will be

"Petty Officer Barrett was a

an autopsy.

gat Caves in Mangilao, Guam.

incident

# Rota school completes pathway project

**ROTA**—Constructing a new pathway structure is a significant undertaking for Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja. But it doesn't have to be hard, if it can organize an army of volunteers to help.

At ESFDB, the Parent Teacher Organization officers took the lead. ESFDB PTO president Melanie Eclarinal and a handful of other moms and dads accomplished the goal of creating a safe pathway for their children to walk on without getting wet and having muddy shoes.

ESFDB is the fundamental place where one can begin his/ her Catholic education in the Luta community. ESFDB PTO had been assisting the school with various projects. As they walked and watched their children off to school, they were all full of interest, laughter, sing-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja Parent Teachers Organization president Melanie Eclarinal (second from left) supervises the school pathway project. Also in the photo from left, Eva Clitar, Ruben Felicidario, and Sonny Manuel.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Parents and volunteers helping with the school pathway project.

### Sailor dies in ing, and playing. It made parents feel proud of what they had achieved so far at our great and only Catholic school in Luta. In any given day, Mother Na-

ture is unpredictable. Then the rain comes down. The parents realized how much the school really needed a pathway to accommodate children walking without getting wet or dirty from the mud.

The ESFDB PTO officers and concern parents proposed and aim to solve the problem where it will benefit the school, students, as well as visitors coming to the school. By constructing the pathway, it will not only be doing a big favor towards the school, but will also be helping the entire Catholic community of Luta.

The ESFDB PTO officers will like to extend their appreciation to the school administrator Carmen Atalig and ESFDB board of directors for their support, and most especially to the hardworking parents, volunteers, Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Mundo, and World Enterprises employees. (Edward Maratita Jr.)

> dearly missed by all of us." Petty Officer Barrett enlisted in the Navy in July 2009. He was assigned to Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Ill., and Basic Enlisted Submarine School at Groton, CT prior to reporting to the Buffalo in April 2011. He qualified in submarines, earning the coveted "dolphin" pin, in April 2012 and had recently been promoted to Petty Officer Third Class. He had also been awarded a letter of commendation from Rear Admiral Sawyer, commander of Submarine Group Seven, for his outstanding performance during the ship's most recent deployment. His home of record was the Bronx, NY. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The completed pathway project.

10 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Opinion**



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> Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

> > MEMBER

**AP** The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### **EDITORIAL**

### **A US presence in the Arctic**

hanging environmental and political conditions in the Arctic reinforce the need for the U.S. Coast Guard to have the equipment and vessels appropriate to the hazardous conditions.

U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., joined forces to secure passage of a Coast Guard authorization bill that maintains the nation's capacity to deploy icebreakers to represent U.S. interests.

Melting polar ice caps are creating a new commercial and political dynamic, with the prospects of greater Arctic access as a trade route.

As a consequence, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea are seeking permanent observer status on the Arctic Council, which overseas policy issues in the region.

The United States barely has the capacity to maintain a presence in the Arctic or Antarctic, which makes the work done by Cantwell and Larsen so important.

Currently, the Coast Guard has one operational icebreaker, the Healy, a medium icebreaker primarily equipped for scientific research. The Coast Guard's only heavy icebreaker, the Polar Star, is near completion of an extensive overhaul at Vigor Industrial shipyard in Seattle.

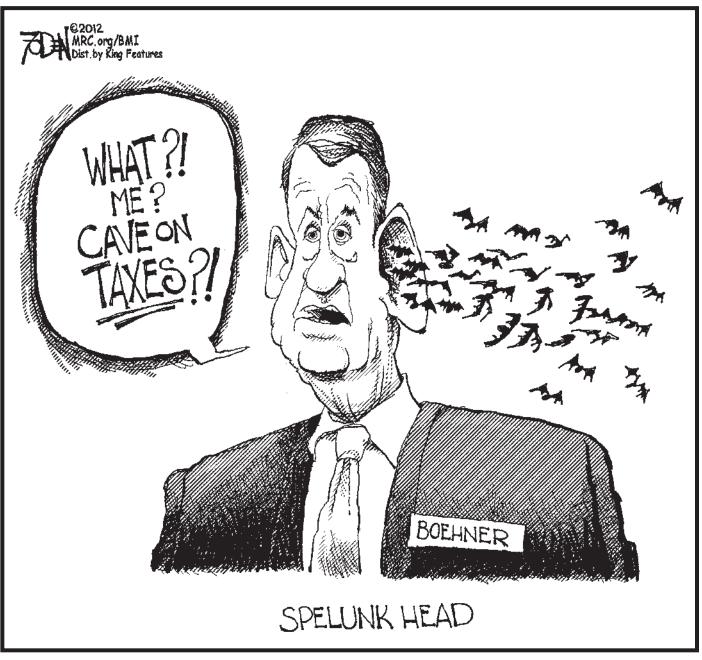
The Coast Guard authorization bill also halts efforts to scrap the Seattle-based icebreaker Polar Sea, unless the Coast Guard can produce a study that shows how the action helps meet the need for additional icebreakers. A planned dismantling of the Polar Sea was halted earlier this year after the Washington state's congressional delegation interceded.

Both heavy-duty icebreakers would be kept in Seattle for the next 10 years under the legislation passed and sent to the White House.

Cantwell cites a Coast Guard study that concluded that six heavy-duty icebreakers and four medium icebreakers are needed to help meet Coast Guard and U.S. Navy mission requirements. The country is nowhere close. A new vessel can push \$1 billion and take a decade to build.

Icebreakers represent a practical investment in the nation's security and commercial interests.

(c)2012 The Seattle Times



# View China as a partner, not a problem

n a few weeks, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will be reinaugurated with great fanfare in Washington. Soon after that, in Beijing, Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang will ascend to the presidency and premiership of China. (China's premier is the second-highest office but unlike the American vice president is more like the country's chief operating officer, with the president as chief executive officer.) If our political leaders would play their cards right, the concomitant inaugurations could be prelude to a brilliant new start for our relationship with China.

But I doubt it, because soon after the inaugurations, the tedious process of Senate confirmation hearings for cabinet positions will begin. As usual, most attention will focus on the three big jobs, the secretaries of treasury, state and defense. Given the nation's current mood, when the nominees are grilled about their views, I'm sure each in turn will express a strong degree of indignation toward China, especially regarding its currency and its military. To be sure, these issues are important and must be addressed, but I highly doubt bellicosity does much to help. Such tough talk will probably help the nominees win their cabinet positions—but surely won't build any ties with China.

That'll be quite a shame. Our business leaders know well that although China is an aspiring superpower, it is not the Soviet Union, and this is not the Cold War. You won't hear them second the opinions we'll surely hear from our cabinet nominees. That's because they fully realize the opportunity that China presents. Just last month, a study released by the Boston Consulting Group concluded that China will have 280 million affluent consumers by 2020. A potential market of affluent consumers nearly the size of the U.S. population is enough to make any CEO salivate. So might we, if we appreciated the opportunity this could afford us to pull us back to economic growth.

To the cabinet nominees, I say this: China may have its problems, but a suicidal tendency is not one of them. Like any country, it acts in its own interests. This may sometimes put the Chinese at odds with other countries, but it does not mean they

By MICHAEL JUSTIN LEE The Baltimore Sun

Michael Justin Lee, a lecturer in the Department of Finance and the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Maryland, is author of the new book, "The Chinese Way to Wealth and Prosperity: 8 Timeless Strategies for Achieving Financial Success." He is represented by the China Speakers Bureau.



seek confrontation \_ especially not with the United States. And everyone in China over 20 can do a very quick before-and-after comparison of living conditions over the past two decades. It's no contest which period comes out ahead. I'm not aware of any culture in which not eating is preferable to eating. And the Chinese well know that the great American market has been substantially responsible for their current banquet.

In turn, their market could be quite a banquet for us. Two little factoids might provide proper perspective about the size of Chinese markets. If little Wu and young Jiang would be particularly diligent in their foreign language studies, China could very quickly also have the largest English-speaking population in the world, too. Never heard that, did you? But even a quarter of a 1.4 billion population equals a whopping big number. Moreover, Christians (including Catholics) in China already outnumber Christians in Italy. Surprising? Sure. But a number like 1.4 billion can do things like that.

Of course, economic considerations are not the only ones of importance. But surely not every issue regarding China is a matter of national security. Let's not treat every one of them as if they were. There's an ancient Chinese proverb (which I may have just made up) that if you treat someone like an enemy, he'll become one.

Do we want an inimical relationship with our most important business partner—and the one, frankly, that we need the most as we struggle to climb out of recession?

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUM-BER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be

trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Dongjing Beijingles

leven years ago today in 2001, the United States extended normal trade relations with China. Chinese traders now drive BMW and Mercedes Benz SUVs, and reportedly own a good 10th of U.S/ currency.

With the migrant Hokkienese a prominent but discriminated sector in Philippine society, the Chinese trader in my experience always managed to get an upperhand in commercial transactions from the Batanes to Zulu. (We once tried trading six shiploads of Davao bananas for Dalian originating soybean meals in the '80s.) Recent events in the Philippines have convinced Chinese colleagues that they can skip the islands in their travels because they may be target of local kidnapping by a disgruntled populace.

While discrimination against the Chinese in the Philippines is rampant, so much so that the old resident Chinese finds it prudent to change or contract their Zhongwen name into its Filipino equivalent, the Japanese ¥en traders quietly go about their disciplined ways, ensuring the solid foothold of the Emperor's currency in the Philippine economy on big ticket items. Not unlike the ¥en's experience in the CNMI, when the going gets rough or the welcome mat to the rising sun banner turns sour, the ¥en does not hesitate to "up and leave".

We grew up with stories of the deceptive Nippon, from the lowly metal scavenger who turned out to be a colonel in the Japan's Imperial Army during WWII to the devastating bombing of Manila Dec. 27 after MacArthur declared the capital an "open city" and led the joint U.S.-Philippine defense forces to fortifications in Bataan and Corregidor. Japan's timetable was delayed by six months as a consequence of that retreat manuever. Their wrath was understandable.

China and Japan this year turned the Christmas lights on with a vengeance. Where no more than one percent of the population holds allegiance to baby in the manger, Tokyo (still referred to as China's east city, Dongjing) brought out the theme of the ice-re- Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.

fracted Slavic northern lights in blazing colors.

Mother Mature cooperated after a fashion this Christmas. A cold front dominated the landscape from the Ukraine to Hokkaido, across Central Asia and the Koreas, plus the plains and prairies of America's Midwest, and Rudolph's red nose guided Santa's sleigh happily tracked by NORAD's satellite.

In Shenyang, China, where Koreatown Sita has congregants singing Christmas carols, the subway that normally runs until 9:30pm ran until 2am to give shoppers and holiday revelers to take their time shopping, eating, drinking, and just generally carousing. China unsurprisingly, for economic reasons, encouraged citizens to spend liberally their hoarded renminbi in the marketplace. Domestic spending is the economy's response to dwindling exports (trade balance between the U.S. and China was at a record high on the tail end of the Bush era, plummeting down on Obama's watch), and there is reportedly enough around for a couple more years to keep the economy humming.

The medieval Catholic Church once used the image of the coin's jingle in the church's coffers releasing a captive purgatory soul into the realm of heavenly salvation. Jingle Bells chimed in the ambience of the ubiquitous Pizza Hut-KFC-McDo triumvirate now turning Chinese "emperors and treasure snowflakes" (the first and second generations of China's one-child policy) well into the lanes of obesity. Nippon happily managed to hang on to its Vegan moorings, though chubbiness is more than evident in the legislative and executive halls of its Diet. No suffering purgatory souls here.

This "cold war" is preferable to the version in the '60s when we raced to see who can best out-nuke each other. Still, Christmas was not a merry one across the board. Syrians, for one, continue to climb their barb-wired borders to Turkey to escape armed hostilities between the government and rebels, with not a few crossing into

### By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.



Meanwhile, Greenland is flushing its melting water into the ocean like an old man with a bladder gone out of control. Climate warming is no longer an imagined phenomenon in the minds of doormsday writers and scientist. The rising ocean tides is a reality. Serious Pacific Islanders are closely watching the numbers and aligning survival policies accordingly. It is ironic that as we get colder, we are also getting wetter!

We watch the bright northern lights and psychedelic icicles from the warmth of our apartment dwelling. We belong to the 20 percent of the world that has managed to perch on that stool. Happily, majority of the world's population is on either the equatorial sides of the tropics where freezing one's butt happens only if one is employed in Reamers, Triple J, and Joeten's walk-in freezers. Still, climate change is bearing heavily on island structures that did not factor its fury.

While China opens its arms to visitors all year round, there are only 600K of us allowed to stay more than six months with legal permission to be employed. We are "foreigners" in a legal sense, but the new urban, secular, and scientific ethos of Tokyo (Dongjing), Seoul, Pyongyang, and Beijing is not foreign to us.

# McClatchy, Washington Post press for release of missing journalist

By MARCUS BRAUCHLI and ANDERS GYLLENHAAL McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON—Austin Tice was well on his way to a law degree when the pull of journalism got to be too much for him. Fascinated by the Middle East and frustrated with news coverage he saw as often too shallow, he decided to see if he could do better.

"It always drove Austin crazy when they'd say on the news this couldn't be confirmed because it's too difficult to report," said Marc Tice, Austin's father. "He thought, 'I've got the ability to do this. I can get in there and get these stories."

Four months ago, Tice was captured in Syria delivering on that commitment with fresh and compelling freelance reports regularly published in McClatchy newspapers and The Washington Post. While the wait for news on his whereabouts drags on, we wanted to make the case for why this work is so vital and why he should be released.

We also want to draw attention to the delicate role of foreign reporters in places such as Syria. Understanding the savage tableau of war helps citizens, societies and governments make judgments and set policies that affect millions of people. At its best, journalism may save lives by making the costs and consequences of war more vivid.

Inevitably, journalists take risks when they cover wars. We've lost friends and colleagues in battle; the brother of one of us, a photographer, was wounded seriously 20 years ago in Sarajevo. But the risks should not include kidnapping, torture or murder.

And yet, so far this year, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, 67 journalists have been killed in direct relation to their work.

In Syria, the number killed in combat or murdered is 28, a rate the committee says approaches the worst annual tally of the Iraq War. Foreign and Syrian reporters alike have been killed. Even the head of Libya's state-run SANA agency was assassinated. Last week, NBC's chief of foreign correspondents, Richard Engel, and his crew escaped a kidnapping in Syria after a gunfight between their captors and rebels.

Many of the journalists at risk in conflict zones today aren't on staff at big, traditional news organizations. The uprisings and revolutions in the Middle East have attracted freelance journalists who don't need mainstream news outlets to reach an audience. New technologies enable them to upload video directly to YouTube or report battles in real time to followers on Twitter or Facebook.

Like many freelancers, Tice followed an unusual path to foreign



As the Tice family prepares for the Christmas holiday, Marc and Debra's son, Austin, an American freelance journalist, is still missing in Syria

reporting, an assignment that can take decades to earn on a big newspaper's staff. A captain in the Marines who served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, Tice left the service and went to Georgetown law school. It was just after his second year when he gave in to the tug of journalism that dated back to high school.

Equipped with cameras, an exquisite writing talent and an instinct for finding his way to the center of things, he slipped over the Turkish border into Syria in May. At one point, he managed to get by checkpoints in Damascus by dressing as a woman despite his 6-foot-3, 220-pound frame.

His work has been courageous and professional, contributing to the montage of truth that has shaped the world's understanding of the Syrian conflict. Though he traveled mostly with the rebels, Tice was as interested in one side as the other, in capturing opposing viewpoints and casualties.

He focused on how the rebels were gaining momentum over the summer. He also helped to break the news in August that rebels were carrying out executions and torture. He was often on the front lines of the conflict. He celebrated his 31st birthday, he noted in his last Twitter post before his capture in mid-August, to the sounds of bombs landing nearby.

Information on his captivity, and even on who is holding him, has been hard to confirm despite the constant efforts of his family, our news organizations and contacts in the U.S. and other governments.

Fice was in the country without a visa, as have been the majority of those covering this story. As his captivity heads into its fifth

month, he has long since paid the price if this is seen as a violation of the country's borders.

We believe his own story makes the best argument for his

He has surely met the high standards of depth and fairness that drew him to this work. His reporting has served both Syria and the wider world with coverage that cannot exist without dedicated reporters such as Austin Tice. Those responsible for his capture and detention have a moral obligation to return him to his family, his friends and his work.

Marcus Brauchli (is the executive editor of The Washington Post, and Anders Gyllenhaal is the vice president for news at McClatchy **12** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph

▲89° ▼76°



Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.

**▲** 88° ▼ 76°



Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers

**▲89° ▼76°** 



Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.

**▲ 89° ▼ 76°** 

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲89° ▼76°** 

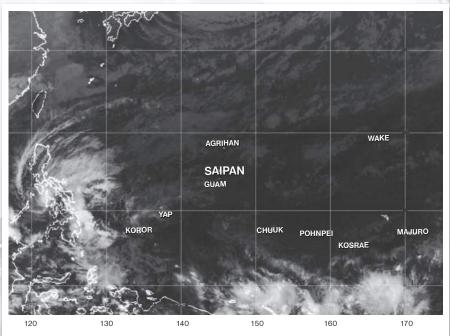
### **Micronesia**

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 88	<b>▼</b> 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 86	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 87	<b>▼</b> 79
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 87	<b>▼</b> 79
Maiuro	Showers	<b>▲</b> 87	₩80

### **Around The Globe**

Chaucara		
Showers	<b>▲</b> 74	<b>▼</b> 66
Mostly Sunny	<b>2</b> 5	▼15
Showers	<b>▲</b> 66	<b>▼</b> 60
Showers	<b>▲</b> 79	<b>▼</b> 69
Showers	<b>4</b> 4	₹38
Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 59	<b>▼</b> 44
hundershowers	<b>≜</b> 83	▼77
Partly Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 83	<b>▼</b> 56
Partly Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 85	₹56
Ice	<b>▲</b> 38	▼37
Sunny	<b>▲</b> 45	₹35
Showers	<b>▲</b> 50	<b>▼</b> 42
Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 42	▼35
Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 57	<b>▼</b> 46
Showers	<b>▲</b> 45	▼38
Showers	<b>▲</b> 56	<b>▼</b> 44
Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 31	▼23
Partly Cloudy	<b>4</b> 4	<b>▼</b> 32
	Mostly Sunny Showers Showers Showers Partly Cloudy Chundershowers Partly Cloudy Ice Sunny Showers Mostly Sunny Partly Cloudy Showers Showers Mostly Sunny Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny  \$\times 25\$ Showers  \$\times 66\$ Showers  \$\times 79\$ Showers  \$\times 44\$ Partly Cloudy  \$\times 59\$ Chundershowers  \$\times 83\$ Partly Cloudy  \$\times 85\$ Ice  \$\times 38\$ Sunny  \$\times 45\$ Showers  \$\times 50\$ Mostly Sunny  \$\times 57\$ Showers  \$\times 56\$ Mostly Sunny  \$\times 56\$

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers near Guam and Yap within 125 miles of a line from 10N137E to 13N145E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastsoutheastward from 3N130E to EQ148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Koror west of a line from 8N132E to EQ136E. A shear line extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N170E across the northern CNMI to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. Convergent low-level winds are triggering scattered showers near Majuro and across Butaritari within 175 miles of a line from 1N170E to 7N177E

	T	ides	
Saipan Ha	arbor		
1:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

**▲**45 ▼38

Sı	ınrise/Sun	set	Moonrise/Moonset					
Today	6:41 AM	5:55 PM	Today	5:01 PM	5:25 AM			
Friday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM	Friday	5:51 PM	6:13 AM			
Saturday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM	Saturday	8:41 PM	7:00 AM			
Sunday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM	Sunday	7:32 PM	7:44 AM			
Monday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM	Monday	8:22 PM	8:27 AM			

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Washington, DC

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**■ TRÁVELOGUE** 

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

### For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740 Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center,
- To check if contributions are i 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012

DE	PAR	TUR	ES		ARF	RIVAL	.5
SAIPAN-GUA	M (GUM	)		GUAM (GUM	)-SAIPAI	1	
UA5070 UA5062		5:25am 5:30am	2, 4, 6, 7 1, 3, 5	UA 5069 UA5071		3:35am 7:55am	2, 4, 6, 7 Daily
UA5068 UA5074		9:15am	Daily 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073 UA5075		10:40am 2:35pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076		12:00pm 4:00pm	1, 4, 5, 1 Daily	UA5075	,	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	,	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	,	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	,	10:35pm	Daily	UAJUIT	0.20µ111	7.1UµIII	Dally
SAIPAN-NAR	ITA (NR	Γ)		NARITA (NR	T)-SAIPA	N	
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUS	AN (PUS	5)		BUSAN (PUS	S)-SAIPA	N	
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7	0Z607	,	1:50am+1	
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3	0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SAIPAN-SEO				SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606		6:00am	1	0Z603		2:20pm	Daily
0Z606		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	,	1:00am+1	
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
SAIPAN-SHA				SHANGHAI (			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJ				BEIJING (PE			
MU7108	4:05am	5:55am	1, 3, 5	MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUA				GUANZHOU			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-VLAI	DIVOSTO	K (VVO)		VLADIVOSTO			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
SAIPAN-MAN	IILA (MN	IL)		MANILA (MN	IL)-SAIP	AN	
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via IC
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via N
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GU
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5079	10:55am	,	3, 6 via GU
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via	0Z702/605		1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7	0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, via ICN
	·	·	via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
0Z604/703 UA5072/PR111	,	11:00pm 7:50am+1	Daily via ICN 1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7
			via GUM	UA184/5071	11:E0nm	7:55am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GU
					,		L, J VIG OU
SAIPAN-HON				HONG KONG			
0Z606/721		11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z746/603		2:20pm	Daily via IC
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605 0Z722/605		1:00am+1 1:30am+1	7 via ICN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM				via ICN
0110010111				T. Control of the Con			
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071 UA180/5077	,	10:40am+1 6:25pm+1	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota			,	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	TILL ILS	10.50	10.70	Dully
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10.20	10.40	Dully	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam			,	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
			<i>'</i>	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50		'
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily			15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 13 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Business**

# US holiday retail sales growth weakest since 2008

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. holiday retail sales this year grew at the weakest pace since 2008, when the nation was in a deep recession. In 2012, the shopping season was disrupted by bad weather and consumers' rising uncertainty about the economy.

A report that tracks spending on popular holiday goods, the MasterCard Advisors SpendingPulse, said Tuesday that sales in the two months before Christmas increased 0.7 percent, compared with last year. Many analysts had expected holiday sales to grow 3 to 4 percent.

In 2008, sales declined by between 2 percent and 4 percent as the financial crisis that crested that fall dragged the economy into recession. Last year, by contrast, retail sales in November and December rose between 4 percent and 5 percent, according to ShopperTrak, a separate market research firm. A 4 percent increase is considered a healthy season.

Shoppers were buffeted this year by a string of events that made them less likely to spend: Superstorm Sandy and other bad weather, the distraction of the presidential election and grief about the massacre of schoolchildren in Newtown, Conn. The numbers also show how Washington's current budget impasse is trickling down to Main Street and unsettling consumers. If Americans remain reluctant to spend, analysts say, economic growth could falter next year.

In the end, even steep lastminute discounts weren't enough to get people into stores, said Marshal Cohen, chief research analyst at the market research firm NPD Inc.

"A lot of the Christmas spirit was left behind way back in Black Friday weekend," Cohen said, referring to the traditional retail rush the day after Thanksgiving. "We had one reason after another for consumers to say, 'I'm going to stick to my list and not go beyond it."

Holiday sales are a crucial indicator of the economy's strength. November and December account for up to 40 percent of annual sales for many retailers. If those sales don't materialize, stores are forced to offer steeper discounts. That's a boon for shoppers, but it cuts into stores' profits.

Last-minute shoppers like Kris Betzold, of Carmel, Ind., embraced discounts that were available before Christmas.

"We went out yesterday, and I noticed that the sales were even better now than they were at Thanksgiving," said Betzold Monday while shopping at an upscale mall in Indianapolis. Betzold, who said the sluggish economy prompted her and her husband to be more frugal this year, noted that she saved about \$25 on a Kindle Fire she found at Best Buy.

Spending by consumers accounts for 70 percent of overall economic activity, so the eightweek period encompassed by the SpendingPulse data is seen as a critical time not just for retailers but for manufacturers, wholesalers and companies at every other point along the supply chain.

The SpendingPulse data include sales by retailers in key holiday spending categories such as electronics, clothing, jewelry, luxury goods, furniture and other home goods between Oct. 28 and Dec. 24. They include sales across all payment methods, including cards, cash and checks.



In this Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, photo, a customer shops for greeting cards at a Target store in Chicago. U.S. holiday retail sales this year are the weakest since 2008, after a shopping season disrupted by storms and rising uncertainty among consumers.

# Health care tax hikes for 2013 may be just a start

WASHINGTON (AP)—New taxes are coming Jan. 1 to help finance President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. Most people may not notice. But they will pay attention if Congress decides to start taxing employer-sponsored health insurance, one option in play if lawmakers can ever agree on a budget deal to reduce federal deficits.

The tax hikes already on the books, taking effect in 2013, fall mainly on people who make lots of money and on the health care industry. But about half of Americans benefit from the taxfree status of employer health insurance. Workers pay no income or payroll taxes on what their employer contributes for health insurance, and in most cases on their own share of premiums as well.

It's the single biggest tax break the government allows, outstripping the mortgage interest deduction, the deduction for charitable giving and other better-known benefits. If the value of job-based health insurance were taxed like regular income, it would raise nearly \$150 billion in 2013, according to congressional estimates. By comparison, wiping away the mortgage interest deduction would bring in only about \$90 billion.

"If you are looking to raise revenue to pay for tax reform, that is the biggest pot of money of all," said Martin Sullivan. chief economist with Tax Analysts, a nonpartisan publisher of tax information.

It's hard to see how lawmakers can avoid touching health insurance if they want to eliminate loopholes and curtail deductions so as to raise revenue and lower tax rates. Congress probably wouldn't do away with the health care tax break, but limit it in some form. Such limits could be keyed to the cost of a particular health insurance plan, the income level of taxpayers or a combination.

Many economists think some

kind of limit would be a good thing because it would force consumers to watch costs, and that could help keep health care spending in check. Obama's health law took a tentative step toward limits by imposing a tax on high-value health insurance plans. But that doesn't start until 2018.

Next spring will be three years since Congress passed

the health care overhaul but, because of a long phase-in, many of the taxes to finance the plan are only now coming into effect. Medicare spending cuts that help pay for covering the uninsured have started to take effect, but they also are staggered. The law's main benefit, coverage for 30 million uninsured people, will take a little longer. It doesn't start until Jan. 1, 2014.

### Partial list of taxes and fees in health overhaul

Starting in 2014, President Barack Obama's health care law will expand coverage to some 30 million uninsured people. At the same time, insurers no longer will be allowed to turn away those in poor health, and virtually every American will be required to have health insurancethrough an employer or a government program or by buying it on their own.

For the vast majority of people, the health care law won't mean sending more money to the Internal Revenue Service. But the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans will take the big-

people eventually will benefit from tax credits that start in 2014 to help them pay insurance premiums.

A look at some of the major taxes and fees, estimated to raise nearly \$700 billion over 10 years.

per year, and couples making

more than \$250,000, will face a 0.9 percent Medicare tax increase on wages above those threshold amounts. They'll also face an additional 3.8 percent tax on investment income. Together these are the biggest tax increase in the health care law.

■ Employer penalties. Starting in 2014, companies with 50 or more employees that do not offer coverage will face penalties if at least one of their employees receives government-subsidized coverage. The penalty is \$2,000 per employee, but a company's first 30 workers don't count toward the total.

■ Health care industries. Insurers, drug companies and medical device manufacturers face new fees and taxes. Companies that make medical equipment sold chiefly through doctors and hospitals, such as pacemakers, artificial hips and coronary stents, will pay a 2.3 percent excise tax on their sales, expected to total \$1.7 billion in its first year, 2013. They're trying to get it repealed.

The insurance industry faces an annual fee that starts at \$8 billion in its first year, 2014.

Pharmaceutical companies that make or import brandname drugs are already paying fees; they totaled \$2.5 billion in 2011, the first year.

■ People who don't get health insurance. Nearly 6 million people who don't get health insurance will face tax penalties starting in 2014. The fines are estimated to raise \$6.9 billion in 2016. Average penalty in that year: about \$1,200.

■ Indoor tanning devotees. The 10 percent sales tax on indoor tanning sessions took effect in 2010. It's expected to raise \$1.5 billion over 10 years.

The 28 million people who visit tanning booths and beds each year-mostly women under 30, according to the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology—are already paying. Tanning salons were singled out because of strong medical evidence that exposure to ultraviolet lights increases the risk of skin cancer.

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

### **Netflix streaming** service back online after outage

Those hoping to spend the holiday watching streaming video from Netflix can now get back in front of their TVs, tablets and PCs after a Christmas Eve outage. A Netflix Inc. spokesman said by email Tuesday morning that the service has been fully restored. The outage affected customers in the Americas starting around 12:30 p.m. PST on Monday. The company, which is based in Los Gatos, Calif., blames problems with Amazon Web Services, and says it is investigating further. Amazon Web Services provides companies with online storage and computing. It is separate from Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc.'s better-known shopping website. (AP)

### **World's longest fast**

### train line opens in China

BEIJING (AP)—China has opened the world's longest highspeed rail line, which runs 2,298 kilometers (1,428 miles) from the country's capital in the north to Guangzhou, an economic hub in the Pearl River delta in southern China. The line officially opened Wednesday when a train departed from Beijing at 9 a.m. for Guangzhou. Another train left Guangzhou for Beijing an hour later. Trains on this high-speed line will initially run at 300 kph (186 mph) with a total travel time of about eight hours. Before, the fastest time between the two cities by train was more than 20 hours. Railway is an essential part in China's transportation system, and its government plans to build a grid of high-speed railways with four east-west lines and four northsouth lines by 2020.

gest hit, starting next year.

And roughly 20 million

■ Upper-income households. Starting Jan. 1, individuals making more than \$200,000 **14** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Nation**

# US gun support runs far deeper than politics

BRYAN, Texas (AP)—Adam Lanza's mother was among the tens of millions of U.S. gun owners. She legally had a .223-caliber Bushmaster rifle and a pair of handguns, which her 20-year-old son used to kill 20 children and six adults in 10 minutes inside a Connecticut school

second-worst school shooting in U.S. history, countless gun enthusiasts much like Lanza's mother complicate a gun-owning narrative that critics, sometimes simplistically, put at the feet of a powerful lobby and caricatured zealots. More civilians are armed in the U.S. than anywhere else in In the raw aftermath of the the world, with Yemen coming

in a distant second, according to the independent Small Arms Survey in Geneva.

Take Blake Smith, a mechanical engineer who lives near Houston and uses an AR-15 style rifle in shooting competitions.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who famously claimed to have shot a coyote while jogging with a pistol holstered to his running shorts, has signed a half-dozen certificates applauding Smith as one of the state's top marksmen. "But I won't call myself a fanatic," said Smith, 54, whose father first let him handle a gun around age 6.

"I sit at a desk all day. And when I get out to the range, I don't hear any gunfire going on," said Smith, who likens his emotional detachment to his guns to the way he would feel about a car or any other machine. "I'm so intent on my sight alignment, my trigger pull, my position. I don't worry about anything. I don't think about anything. It's relieving. It's therapeutic. Everybody has to have their Zen."

Since the school shooting,

President Barack Obama has asked for proposals on reducing gun violence that he can take to Congress in January, and he called on the National Rifle Association, the country's most powerful gun-rights organization, to join the effort.

Gun laws in the U.S. vary from state to state-for instance, as of last month it is now legal to carry a gun in public view in Oklahoma and are defended by the firearms industry and the NRA. On Friday, the NRA broke a weeklong silence since the Connecticut massacre by calling for armed volunteers at public schools, prompting criticism from many quarters.

But in the U.S., gun-control advocates are up against a have those guns."

sizeable bloc of mainstream Americans for whom guns are central to their lives, whether for patriotism or personal sense of safety, or simply to occupy their spare time.

Dave Burdett, who owns an outdoors and adventure shop across the street from the sprawling Texas A&M University campus in College Station, says his affinity for guns is rooted in history, not sport.

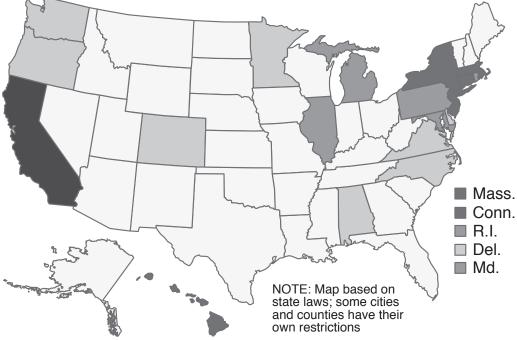
"It isn't about hunting. Everyone says, 'Well, I can understand having a sporting rifle, but not an AR-15," Burdett said. "But wait a second—the idea of the Second Amendment was to preserve and protect the rights of individuals to

# **Regulating guns**

A 2011 ranking of state restrictions on gun sales, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, lists California as the state with the strongest laws.

### **Gun laws by state**





Source: Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, 2011 Graphic: Scott J. Wilson and Paul Duginski, Los Angeles Times

© 2012 MCT

### Nasty storms blamed for 1 death, make travel tough

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Christmas Day along the Gulf Coast was filled with severe thunderstorms that brought drenching rains, high winds and damaging tornadoes while the nation's midsection dealt with freezing rain, sleet and snow that made for a sloppy and sometimes dangerous trek for holiday travelers.

Winds toppled a tree onto a pickup truck in the Houston area, killing the driver. Icv roads already were blamed for a 21-vehicle pileup in Oklahoma, where authorities warned would-be travelers to stay home. The National Weather Service tweeted that a tornado was headed toward downtown Mobile, Ala., and WALA posted on its website a photo from its tower cam of what looked like a funnel cloud moving toward the city.

Near McNeill, Miss., in the southwestern part of the state, winds from a storm, possibly a tornado, damaged a dozen homes and injured several people, none

seriously, said Pearl River County emergency management agency director Danny Manley.

Trees fell on a few houses in central Louisiana's Rapides Parish but there were no injuries reported and crews were cutting trees out of roadways to get to people in their homes, said sheriff's Lt. Tommy Carnline. Fog blanketed highways, including arteries in the Atlanta area where motorists slowed as a precaution. In New Mexico, drivers across the eastern plains had to fight through snow, ice and low visibility.

At least three tornadoes were reported in Texas, though only one building was damaged, according to the National Weather Service. Tornado watches were in effect across southern Louisiana and Mississippi.

Nearly 350 flights nationwide were canceled by the evening, according to the flight tracker FlightAware.com. More than half were canceled into and out of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport that got a few inches of snow.

Christmas lights also were knocked out with more than 70,000 people without power in east Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

And in Louisiana, quartersized hail was reported early Tuesday in the western part of the state and a WDSU viewer sent a photo to the TV station of what appeared to be a waterspout around the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in New Orleans. There were no reports of crashes or damage.

Meanwhile, blizzard conditions were possible for parts of Illinois, Indiana and western Kentucky with predictions of 4 to 7 inches of snow. Much of Oklahoma and Arkansas braced under a winter storm warning of an early mix of rain and sleet forecast to eventually turn to snow. About a dozen counties in Missouri were under a blizzard warning from Tuesday night to noon Wednesday.

### Newtown celebrates Christmas and remembers victims

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)— Newtown celebrated Christmas amid piles of snow-covered teddy bears, long lines of stockings and heaps of flowers as volunteers manned a 24-hour candlelight vigil in memory of the 20 children and six educators gunned down at an elementary school just 11 days before the holiday.

Well-wishers from around the country showed up Christmas morning to hang ornaments on a series of memorial Christmas trees while police officers from around the state took extra shifts to direct traffic, patrol the town and give police here a break.

"It's a nice thing that they can use us this way," Ted Latiak, a police detective from Greenwich, Conn., said Christmas morning, as he and a fellow detective, each working a half-day shift, came out of a store with bagels and coffee for other of-

The expansive memorials throughout town have become a gathering point for town residents and visitors alike. A steady stream of residents, some in pajamas, relit candles that had been extinguished in an overnight snow storm. Others took pictures, dropped off toys and fought back tears at a huge sidewalk memorial in the center of Newtown's Sandy Hook section that is filled with stuffed animals, poems, flowers, posters and cards.

In the morning, Newtown resident Joanne Brunetti watched over 26 candles that had been lit at midnight in honor of those slain at Sandy Hook Elementary School. She and her husband, Bill, signed up for a three-hour shift and erected a tent to ensure that the candle flames never went out throughout the day.

"You have to do something and you don't know what to do, you know? You really

feel very helpless in this situation," she said. "People have been wonderful to everybody in Newtown whether you were part of what happened or not. My thought is if we were all this nice to each other all the time maybe things like this wouldn't happen.'

At a town hall memorial, Faith Leonard waved to people driving by and handed out Christmas cookies, children's gifts and hugs to anyone who needed it.

"I guess my thought was if I could be here helping out maybe one person would be able to spend more time with their family or grieve in the way they needed to," said Leonard, who drove to Newtown from Gilbert, Ariz., to volunteer on Christmas morning alone. "I know they've been inundated with support and that's great, but it's always nice to have a present to open on Christmas day."

### **ACROSS THE NATION**

### Firemen's killer left chilling note, deaths at 3

WEBSTER, N.Y. (AP)—An ex-con killed two firefighters with the same caliber and make military-style rifle used in the Connecticut school massacre after typing a note pledging to burn down his neighborhood and "do what I like doing best, killing people," police said Tuesday as another body, believed to be the gunman's missing sister, was found. William Spengler, 62, who served 17 years in prison for manslaughter in the 1980 hammer slaying of his grandmother, set his house afire before dawn Christmas Eve before taking a revolver, a shotgun and a semiautomatic rifle to a sniper position outside. Police Chief Gerald Pickering said. The death toll rose to three as police revealed that a body believed to be the killer's 67-year-old sister, Cheryl Spengler, was found in his fire-ravaged home.

### Sierra ski patrol member dies after avalanche

TRUCKEE, Calif. (AP)—A member of a Sierra ski resort's patrol team who was injured after being caught in an avalanche has died—the second death connected to avalanches that occurred in the

area on Monday. Bill Foster, 53, died at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nev., where he was taken after the avalanche a day earlier at Alpine Meadows near Lake Tahoe, the resort said in a statement on Tuesday. Resort spokeswoman Amelia Richmond said she did not know whether Foster, a 28-year veteran with the resort's ski patrol team, died Monday night or Tuesday.

### Hero dog missing snout seems to have beaten cancer

**DAVIS, Calif.** (AP)—A veterinarian at the University of California, Davis, has some good news about a dog from the Philippines who became an international hero after sacrificing her snout to save two young girls. After completing six weekly intravenous chemotherapy infusions, Kabang appears to have beaten the cancer she was suffering from, Gina Davis, the primary care veterinarian at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in Davis, told the San Francisco Chronicle. The dog, however, is still facing treatment for heartworms in her arteries before she can have the gaping wound on her face closed. Full treatment of that condition was put on hold during cancer therapy.

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# Asia

# Afghanistan: Woman who killed American is Iranian

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)— The policewoman who killed an American contractor in Kabul is a native Iranian who came to Afghanistan and displayed "unstable behavior" but no known links to militants, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

The policewoman, identified as Sgt. Nargas, shot 49-year-old Joseph Griffin, of Mansfield, Georgia, on Monday, in the first such shooting by a woman in a spate of insider attacks by Afghans against their foreign allies. Nargas walked into a heavily-guarded compound in the heart of Kabul, confronted Griffin and gunned him down with a single pistol bullet.

The U.S-based security firm DynCorp International said on its website that Griffin was a U.S. military veteran who earlier worked with law enforcement agencies in the United States. In Kabul, he was under contract to the NATO military command to advise the Afghan police force.

Insider killings have eroded the trust between the foreign contingent and the Afghan government, just a year before most NATO troops are set to withdraw and turn security responsibility over to local forces.

The ministry spokesman, Sediq Sediqi, told a news conference that Nargas, who uses one name like many in the country, was born in Tehran, where she married an Afghan. She moved to the country 10 years ago after her husband obtained fake



A member of security escorts a U.S. convoy in to the Kabul police headquarters, where a an American advisor was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Dec. 24, 2012.

documents enabling her to live and work there.

A mother of four in her early 30s, she joined the police five years ago, held various positions and had a clean record, he said. Sediqi produced an Iranian passport which he said was found at her home.

"Her mental condition is not good," he said, describing her

behavior as "unstable." He said that after she attended a recent training course in Egypt a "foreign government"-a clear reference to Egypt-informed Afghan authorities that she did not appear to be "normal."

On Monday, senior Afghan officials said the policewoman was licensed to carry the weapon into the compound and was

well known there. On Tuesday, a hidden pistol. Zahir said the lapse of security was also being investigated, as well as whether she had connections with for-

four survivors of the crash, rushed to the hospital from the factory in neighboring Zhejiang province where he works, and broke down in tears in the ward, Xinhua said.

"I want to take him with me to Zhejiang. Though life might be hard out there, it helps me feel calm with the family around,"

With the closure of Zhou's kindergarten, preschoolers in the area might either travel farther to attend a nursery or stay home, lo-

Last year, a nine-seat private school van overloaded with 62 kindergarten children and two adults crashed head-on with a truck in rural western China, killing 19 of the children and

however, the chief investigator, Gen. Mohammad Zahir, told reporters that she was not authorized to carry weapons into the compound but managed to pass through security checks with

responsibility for the killing. Zahir said that during interro-

No militant group has claimed

eign or local militant groups.

had plans to kill either the Kabul governor, city police chief or Zahir himself, but when she realized that penetrating the last security cordons to reach them would be too difficult, she saw "a foreigner" and turned her weapon on him. On Monday, NATO said that

gation, the policewoman said she

"some temporary, prudent measures" might be put into place to lessen exposure of NATO personnel to insider attacks, but the training of Afghan police would not be stopped. The NATO command had no additional comment on the case Tuesday.

There have been 60 insider attacks this year against foreign military and civilian personnel, compared to 21 in 2011. This surge presents another looming security issue as NATO prepares to pull out almost all of its forces by 2014, turning the war against the Taliban and other militant groups largely in the hands of the Afghans.

More than 50 Afghan members of the government's security forces also have died this year in attacks by their own colleagues. The Taliban claims such incidents reflect a growing popular opposition to the foreign military presence and the Kabul government.

# hinese officials suspended after school bus crash

BEIJING (AP)—A dozen local officials in rural eastern China have been suspended while authorities investigate the crash of an overloaded school van that killed 11 kindergartners, state media said Wednesday.

A deputy mayor for Guixi city, where the crash occurred Monday, and the heads of the local education and transportation bureaus are among those suspended, the official party newspaper People's Daily reported. The principal of the kindergarten, who also was the van's driver, has been detained, and the official Xinhua News Agency said the privately run school had been operating without a license and has been ordered closed.

An initial police investigation found that the van was speeding and ended up in a 3-meter (yard)deep pond, Xinhua said, adding that the principal "drove improperly." The principal had modified the van to carry more passengers, state broadcaster China Central Television said on its website, without citing sources.

The victims, ages 4 to 6, were mostly children of migrant workers and lived with their grandparents, Xinhua said. Many children from poor rural areas are "left behind" while their parents seek work in thriving coastal cities.

The principal, Zhou Chun'e, has been detained on suspicion of culpable driving causing

cial surnamed Jiang from the Communist Party propaganda office in Guixi.

Zhou had been driving the seven-seat van with 15 children and another adult aboard along a rural road undergoing repairs in Jiangxi province, Xinhua said.

Three children died at the scene, while eight others died after being hospitalized. Each victim's family will be paid 480,000 yuan (\$77,100), Xinhua said.

Overcrowding on school buses is common in rural China, Closures of rural schools have exacerbated the problem, as children are forced to travel farther to get an education while increasing the demand for buses.

Tong Fuliang, the father of a

Tong was quoted as saving.

cal villagers told Xinhua.

### serious injury, said an offi-4-year-old who was one of the both adults. China arrests 355, rescues 89 from child abduction

BEIJING (AP)—A national operation in China has busted nine child abduction gangs, arresting 355 suspects and rescuing 89 children.

China's Ministry of Public Security said Monday that it conducted the nine-province operation in December after receiving reports of child abductions from southern China's Fujian and Yunnan provinces.

The ministry said the child

trafficking activities spanned several provinces and that the suspects bought abducted children in provinces including Yunnan and Sichuan and transported them to other provinces, where they were sold for huge profits.

The official Xinhua News Agency said that in one case, a 1-month-old baby boy from Yunnan province was sold for 62,800 yuan (\$10,000) to a family in Fujian province. A baby boy could fetch as much as 90,000 yuan (\$14,250), Xinhua said.

Despite severe legal punishments that include the death penalty, child trafficking is a big problem in China. The commerce is highly profitable for the traffickers, and the demand is strong, driven partly by the traditional preference for male heirs, a strict one-child policy and ignorance of the law.

Child buyers in China are not subject to criminal prosecution if they do not obstruct rescue efforts or mistreat the children, and legal experts are pushing for a law revision to make it a crime to buy abducted children, Xinhua reported.

In 2011, Chinese police rescued 8,660 abducted children.

### **ASIAN BRIEFS**

### Kazakhstan military plane crashes, killing 27

MOSCOW (AP)—Kazakhstan's acting border service chief was among 27 people killed in a military plane crash Tuesday near a southern city, another blow to the agency after he was appointed in June to deal with the aftermath of a mass killing involving a conscript. The Russian-made An-72 crashed at 1255 GMT (7:55 a.m. EST) about 20 kilometers (12 miles) away from the city of Shymkent near the border with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan's Committee for National Security said in a statement. The fatalities included a crew of seven and 20 border guards, including the acting head of the ex-Soviet nation's border protection service, Col. Turganbek Stambekov, the statement said.

### 8 dead in Christmas Day fires, riot in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Angry residents beat a man to death and threw rocks at firefighters after a shantytown fire left thousands of people homeless, and another Christmas Day blaze in the Philippine capital left seven people dead, officials said Wednesday. A resident was beaten to death by his neighbors after shouting that he started Tuesday's shantytown fire in suburban San Juan city, Senior Fire Officer Domingo Cabog said. The man was reportedly drunk and was not responsible for the fire. Cabog said the fire started in a house where children were playing with lighted candles. Some 5,000 people were left homeless and 13 people were hurt in the shantytown. The injured included two firefighters and a volunteer hit by rocks that were thrown by residents who were impatient and tried to grab fire hoses to save their own shanties, Cabog said.

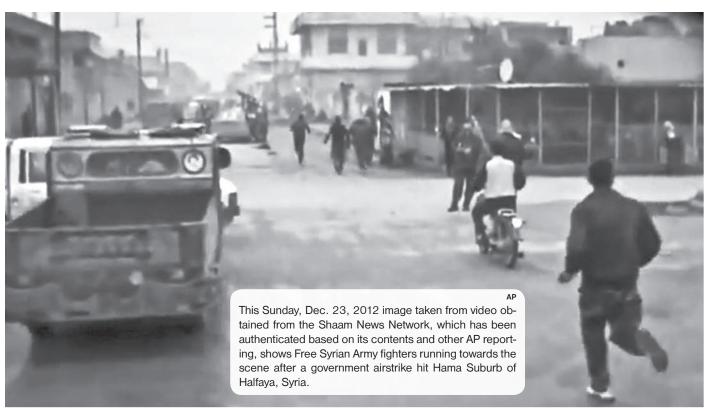
### 2 rebels, 1 policeman killed in Kashmir fighting

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police in Indian-controlled Kashmir say two suspected rebels and a police officer have been killed in a gunbattle in the disputed Himalayan region. Police officer Manoj Panditha says in addition to the dead, one Indian army soldier was wounded in the fighting late Monday in the southern Kashmir village of Dodhiporao. Panditha said Tuesday that police believe men belonged to the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. There has been no independent confirmation of the incident. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both in its entirety. About 68,000 people have been killed since 1989 in an armed rebellion against Indian rule and in an ensuing Indian crackdown that has largely crushed the militants.

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# World

# Syrian rebels make more gains in north



**BEIRUT** (AP)—Syrian rebels fully captured a northern town near the Turkish border on Tuesday after weeks of heavy fighting and attacked a regime air base in a neighboring province, activists said.

The air base is in Aleppo province, where opposition fighters have already captured three other large military bases in recent months. Rebels have also laid siege to the international airport in the city of Aleppo, Syria's commercial capital, and launched an offensive on the police academy near the city.

With steady rebel gains across the north, President Bashar Assad's regime is having increasing difficulty sending supplies by land to Aleppo province, especially after rebels cut a major thoroughfare from Damascus. It is just another sign that the opposition is consolidating its grip across large swathes of territory in northern Syria near the Turkish border.

In his traditional Christmas address, Pope Benedict XVI decried the slaughter of the "defenseless" in Syria, where antiregime activists estimate more than 40,000 have died in fighting since the uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule began in March 2011.

In another blow to the regime, activists said that Mohammed Adnan Arabo, a member of Syria's parliament has left the country and joined the opposition. Ahmad Ramadan, an executive council member of the opposition Syrian National Council group, and other activists said Arabo arrived in Turkey on Tuesday.

He said the regime's hold on power is deteriorating and rebels are besieging military bases for weeks until they either take over or negotiate with local army commanders to surrender. He added that some regime forces are being diverted to the capital to fight there.

its bases and also cannot send forces to support troops under siege," he said.

Over the weeks, rebels fighting to overthrow Assad have also been able to take the battles into the capital Damascus, Assad's seat of power, where the southern neighborhoods are witnessing almost daily clashes between troops and rebels.

"The regime cannot protect

The big successes began in mid-November, when rebels captured Aleppo's Regiment 46, a large military base, carting off tanks, armored vehicles and truck-loads of munitions. Three weeks later, they captured the Sheik Suleiman base near the provincial capital of Aleppo and days later they took an infantry base in the city. Last week, they

**SEC.** WORLD BRIEFS

captured an army technical regiment near Damascus' international airport but were pushed back in a counter attack. The army command said in a statement that the regiment's commander was killed in the battle.

The rebels have also brought the battle to areas around Damascus international airport where some flights were cancelled earlier this month because of the intensity of the fighting.

### Egypt constitution passes, economic crunch looms

CAIRO (AP)—The official of Morsi's presidency and the approval of Egypt's disputed, Islamist-backed constitution Tuesday held out little hope of stabilizing the country after two years of turmoil and Islamist President Mohammed Morsi may now face a more immediate crisis with the economy falling deeper into distress.

In a clear sign of anxiety over the economy, the turbulence of the past month and expected austerity measures ahead have some Egyptians hoarding dollars for fear the currency is about to take a significant turn for the weaker.

The battle over the constitution left Egypt deeply polarized at a time when the government is increasingly cash-strapped. Supporters of the charter campaigned for it on the grounds that it will lead to stability, improve the grip of Morsi and his allies on state institutions, restore investor confidence and bring back tourists.

"In times of change, politics are the driver of the economy and not the other way around," said Mourad Aly, a media adviser for the political arm of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, the backbone main group that backed the constitution.

But there are already multiple fights on the horizon.

The U.S. State Department bluntly told Morsi it was now time to make compromises, acknowledging deep concerns over the constitution.

"President Morsi, as the democratically elected leader of Egypt, has a special responsibility to move forward in a way that recognizes the urgent need to bridge divisions, build trust, and broaden support for the political process," said Patrick Ventrell, acting deputy spokesman. "We hope those Egyptians disappointed by the result will seek more and deeper engagement. "

He said Egypt "needs a strong, inclusive government to meet its many challenges."

After a spate of resignations of senior aides and advisers during the constitutional crisis, Morsi appeared to have lost another member of his government late Tuesday night when his communications minister posted on his Twitter account that he was resigning.

### Pope's Christmas message focuses on Mideast, China

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—In his Christmas message to the world Tuesday, Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to the slaughter in Syria and for more meaningful negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, while encouraging more religious freedom under China's new leaders.

Delivering the traditional speech from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, Benedict also encouraged Arab spring nations, especially Egypt, to build just and respectful societies.

The pope prayed that China's new leadership may "esteem the contribution of the religions, in respect for each other, to help build a "fraternal society for the benefit of that noble people."

It was a clear reference to the Chinese government's often harsh treatment of Catholics loyal to the pontiff instead of to the state-sanctioned church. Earlier this month, the Vatican refused to accept the decision by Chinese authorities to revoke the title of a Shanghai bishop, who had been appointed in a rare show of consensus between



Pope Benedict XVI delivers his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the City and to the World) speech from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012.

the Holy See and China.

As the 85-year-old pontiff, bundled up in an erminetrimmed red cape, gingerly stepped foot on the balcony, the pilgrims, tourists and Romans below backing St. Peter's Square erupted in cheers.

Less than 12 hours earlier, Benedict had led a two-hour long Christmas Eve ceremony in the basilica. He sounded hoarse and looked weary as he read his Christmas message and then holiday greetings in 65 languages.

In his "Urbi et Orbi" speech, which traditionally reviews world events and global challenges, Benedict prayed that "peace spring up for the people of Syria, deeply wounded and divided by a conflict that does not spare even the defenseless and reaps innocent victims."

### **Iraq's northern Kurdish region stops** oil exports

BAGHDAD (AP)—An Iraqi Kurdish official said on Tuesday that the country's self-ruled northern Kurdish region has suspended oil exports over a payment row with Baghdad, a development that could add to already souring relations between the Kurds and the Arab-led central government. Since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the Kurds have unilaterally struck more than 50 deals with foreign oil companies, even though Baghdad says they have no right to do so. In 2011, the two sides reached a tentative deal by which the Kurds send the oil to Baghdad, which sells it, and pays 50 percent of the revenues to the developers to reimburse the development costs. In April, the Kurds halted exports of around 100,000 barrels a day, saying that Baghdad had made only two payments under the agreement and had failed to pay \$1.5 billion they say they were owed.

### Israel revisits ban on female prayer at holy site

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister has instructed a quasi-governmental Jewish organization to find a solution for non-Orthodox Jewish female groups wishing to pray at one of Judaism's holiest sites. An official said Tuesday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked Na-

tan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency, to look into the matter. The official spoke anonymously according to government regulations. Last week Israeli police detained women from a liberal Jewish group who approached the Western Wall in Jerusalem carrying prayer shawls. Orthodox Jews insist those are for men only. The women seek to worship at the site without such restrictions.

### SAfrica: Children attend Mandela's

MVEZO, South Africa (AP)—A couple of decades ago, Nelson Mandela grew withdrawn while feasting with his family on Christmas Day in the part of rural South Africa where the anti-apartheid leader lived as a child. Alarmed by the patriarch's silence, some relatives looked at him and asked if anything was wrong. "I'm just wondering what the rest of the community is doing while we're having a huge meal," Mandela said at the time, according to his grandson, Mandla. Family members immediately canvassed the neighborhood for children to join their party, rounding up a merry band of 60, and so began an annual tradition that ballooned in popularity. A scaled down version was held Tuesday in Mvezo, Mandela's birthplace, drawing hundreds of local children to a celebration whose 94-year-old founder could not attend because he is in hospital care.

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# Focus

ASHINGTON (AP)—Efforts to save the nation from going over a year-end "fiscal cliff" were in disarray as lawmakers fled the Capitol for their Christmas break. "God only knows" how a deal can be reached now, House Speaker John Boehner declared.

President Barack Obama, on his way out of town himself, insisted a bargain could still be struck before Dec. 31. "Call me a hopeless optimist," he said.

A look at why it's so hard for Republicans and Democrats to compromise on urgent matters of taxes and spending, and what happens if they fail to meet their deadline:

### **NEW YEAR'S HEADACHE**

Partly by fate, partly by design, some scary fiscal forces come together at the start of 2013 unless Congress and Obama act to stop them. They include:

- Some \$536 billion in tax increases, touching nearly all Americans, because various federal tax cuts and breaks expire at year's end.
- About \$110 billion in spending cuts divided equally between the military and most other federal departments. That's about 8 percent of their annual budgets, 9 percent for the Pentagon.

Hitting the national economy with that double whammy of tax increases and spending cuts is what's called go-



AP

In this Nov. 16, 2012 file photo, President Barack Obama, accompanied by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaks to reporters in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, as he hosted a meeting of the bipartisan, bicameral leadership of Congress to discuss the deficit and economy in Washington.

# Over the fiscal cliff: How hard a landing?

ing over the "fiscal cliff." If allowed to unfold over 2013, it would lead to recession, a big jump in unemployment and financial market turmoil, economists predict.

### WHAT IF THEY MISS THE DEADLINE?

If New Year's Day arrives without a deal, the nation shouldn't plunge onto the shoals of recession immediately. There still might be time to engineer a soft landing.

So long as lawmakers and the president appear to be working toward agreement, the tax hikes and spending cuts could mostly be held at bay for a few weeks. Then they could be repealed retroactively once a deal was reached.

The big wild card is the stock market and the nation's financial confidence: Would traders start to panic if Washington appeared unable to reach accord? Would worried consumers and businesses sharply reduce their spending? In what could be a preview, stock prices around the world dropped Friday after House Republican leaders' plan for addressing the fiscal cliff collapsed.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has warned lawmakers that the economy is already suffering from the uncertainty and they shouldn't risk making it worse by blowing past their deadline

### WHAT IF THEY NEVER AGREE?

If negotiations between Obama and Congress collapse completely, 2013 looks like a rocky year.

Taxes would jump \$2,400 on average for families with incomes of \$50,000 to \$75,000, according to a study by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center. Because consumers would get less of their paychecks to spend, businesses and jobs would suffer.

At the same time, Americans would

feel cuts in government services; some federal workers would be furloughed or laid off, and companies would lose government business. The nation would lose up to 3.4 million jobs, the Congressional Budget Office predicts.

"The consequences of that would be felt by everybody," Bernanke says.

### THE TAXES

Much of the disagreement surrounds the George W. Bush-era income tax cuts, and whether those rates should be allowed to rise for the nation's wealthiest taxpayers. Both political parties say they want to protect the middle-class from tax increases.

Several tax breaks begun in 2009 to stimulate the economy by aiding lowand middle-income families are also set to expire Jan. 1. The alternative minimum tax would expand to catch 28 million more taxpayers, with an average increase of \$3,700 a year. Taxes on investments would rise, too. More deaths would be covered by the federal estate tax, and the rate climbs from 35 percent to 55 percent. Some corporate tax breaks would end.

The temporary Social Security payroll tax cut also is due to expire. That tax break for most Americans seems likely to end even if a fiscal cliff deal is reached, now that Obama has backed down from his call to prolong it as an economic stimulus.

### **THE SPENDING**

If the nation goes over the fiscal cliff, budget cuts of 8 percent or 9 percent would hit most of the federal government, touching all sorts of things from agriculture to law enforcement and the military to weather forecasting. A few areas, such as Social Security benefits, Veterans Affairs and some programs for the poor, are exempt.

### THERE'S MORE AT STAKE

All sorts of stuff could get wrapped up

in the fiscal cliff deal-making. A sampling:

■ Some 2 million jobless Americans may lose their federal unemployment aid. Obama wants to continue the benefits extension as part of the deal; Republicans say it's too costly.

- Social Security recipients might see their checks grow more slowly. As part of a possible deal, Obama and Republican leaders want to change the way cost-of-living adjustments are calculated, which would mean smaller checks over the years for retirees who get Social Security, veterans' benefits or government pensions.
- The price of milk could double. If Congress doesn't provide a fix for expiring dairy price supports before Jan. 1, milk-drinking families could feel the pinch. One scenario is to attach a farm bill extension to the fiscal cliff legislation—if a compromise is reached in time
- Millions of taxpayers who want to file their 2012 returns before mid-March will be held up while they wait to see if Congress comes through with a deal to stop the alternative minimum tax from hitting more people.

### **CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF?**

In theory, Congress and Obama could just say no to the fiscal cliff, by extending all the tax cuts and overturning the automatic spending reductions in current law. But both Republicans and Democrats agree it's time to take steps to put the nation on a path away from a future of crippling debt.

Indeed, the automatic spending cuts set for January were created as a last-ditch effort to force Congress to deal with the debt problem.

If Washington bypassed the fiscal cliff, the next crisis would be just around the corner, in late February or early March, when the government reaches a \$16.4 trillion ceiling on the amount of money it can borrow.

Boehner says Republicans won't go along with raising the limit on government borrowing unless the increase is matched by spending cuts to help attack the long-term debt problem. Failing to raise the debt ceiling could lead to a first-ever U.S. default that would roil the financial markets and shake worldwide confidence in the United States

To avoid that scenario, Obama and Boehner are trying to wrap a debt limit agreement into the fiscal cliff negotiations

### SO WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?

They're at loggerheads over some big questions.

Obama says any deal must include higher taxes for the wealthiest Americans. Many House Republicans oppose raising anyone's tax rates. Boehner tried to get the House to vote for higher taxes only on incomes above \$1 million but dropped the effort when it became clear he didn't have the votes.

Republicans also insist on deeper spending cuts than Democrats want to make. And they want to bring the nation's long-term debt under control by significantly curtailing the growth of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security—changes that many Democrats oppose.

Obama, meanwhile, wants more temporary economic "stimulus" spending to help speed up a sluggish recovery. Republicans say the nation can't afford it.

### IT'S NOT JUST WASHINGTON

Seems like they could just make nice, shake hands and split their differences, right? But there's a reason neither side wants to give ground. The two parties represent a divided and inconsistent America. True, Obama just won re-

election. But voters also chose a Republican majority in the House.

Republican and Democrats alike say they are doing what the voters back home want.

Neither side has a clear advantage in public opinion. In an Associated Press-GfK poll, 43 percent said they trust the Democrats more to manage the federal budget deficit and 40 percent preferred the Republicans. There's a similar split on who's more trusted with taxes.

About half of Americans support higher taxes for the wealthy, the poll says, and about 10 percent want tax increases all around. Still, almost half say cutting government services, not raising taxes, should be the main focus of lawmakers as they try to balance the budget.

When asked about specific budget cuts being discussed in Washington, few Americans express support for them.

### THE COUNTDOWN

Time for deal-making is short, thanks to the holiday and congressional calendars. Some key dates for averting the fiscal cliff:

- Lawmakers aren't expected to return to the Capitol until after Christmas, leaving less than a week to vote on a compromise before year's end.
- Obama and his family also left town for a Christmas vacation in Hawaii. The president said because the fiscal cliff was still unresolved, he would return to Washington this week.
- If lawmakers reach Dec. 31 without a deal, some economists worry that the financial markets might swoon.
- The current Congress is in session only through noon Eastern time on Jan. 3. After that, a newly elected Congress with 13 new senators and 82 new House members would inherit the problem.

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# Environment

# Kids play Mozart with violins made from garbage

PEDRO SERVIN

CATEURA, Paraguay (AP)—
The gounds of a classical quiter

The sounds of a classical guitar come from two big jelly cans. Used X-rays serve as the skins of a thumping drum set. A battered aluminum salad bowl and strings tuned with forks from what must have been an elegant table make a violin. Bottle caps work perfectly well as keys for a saxophone.

A chamber orchestra of 20 children uses these and other instruments fashioned out of recycled materials from a land-fill where their parents eke out livings as trash-pickers, regularly performing the music of Beethoven and Mozart, Henry Mancini and the Beatles. A concert they put on for The Associated Press also featured Frank Sinatra's "My Way" and some Paraguayan polkas.

Rocio Riveros, 15, said it took her a year to learn how to play her flute, which was made from tin cans. "Now I can't live without this orchestra," she said.

Word is spreading about these kids from Cateura, a vast land-fill outside Paraguay's capital where some 25,000 families live alongside reeking garbage in abject poverty.

The youngsters of "The Orchestra of Instruments Recycled From Cateura" performed in

Brazil, Panama and Colombia this year, and hope to play at an exhibit opening next year in their honor at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

"We want to provide a way out of the landfill for these kids and their families. So we're doing the impossible so that they can travel outside Paraguay, to become renowned and admired," said Favio Chavez, a social worker and music teacher who started the orchestra.

The museum connection was made by a Paraguayan documentary filmmaker, Alejandra Amarilla Nash. She and film producer Juliana Penaranda-Loftus have followed the orchestra for years, joining Chavez in his social work while making their film "Landfill Harmonic" on a shoestring budget.

The documentary is far from complete. The kids still have much to prove. But last month, the filmmakers created a Facebook page and posted a short trailer on YouTube and Vimeo that has gone viral, quickly getting more than a million views altogether.

"It's a beautiful story and also fits in very well with this theme of ingenuity of humans around the world using what they have at their disposal to create music," said Daniel Piper, curator of the 5,000-in-



In this Dec. 11, 2012 photo, Music Director Fabio Chavez leads his students from "The Orchestra of Instruments Recycled From Cateura" in a practice session in Cateura, a vast landfill outside Paraguay's capital of Asuncion, Paraguay. Chavez had learned clarinet and guitar as a child, and had started a small music school in another town in Paraguay before he got a job with an environmental organization teaching trashpickers in Cateura how to protect themselves. Chavez opened a tiny music school at the landfill hoping to keep youngsters out of trouble. But he had just five instruments to share.

strument Arizona museum.

The community of Cateura could not be more marginalized. But the music coming from garbage has some families believing in a different future for their children.

"Thanks to the orchestra, we were in Rio de Janeiro! We bathed in the sea, on the beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana. I never thought my dreams would become reality," said Tania Vera, a 15-year-old violinist who lives in a wooden shack by a contaminated stream. Her mother has health problems, her father abandoned them, and her older sister left the orchestra after becoming pregnant. Tania, though, now wants to be a veterinarian, as well as a musician.

The orchestra was the brainchild of Chavez, 37. He had learned clarinet and guitar as a child, and had started a small music school in another town in Paraguay before he got a job with an environmental organization teaching trash-pickers in Cateura how to protect themselves.

Chavez opened a tiny music school at the landfill five years ago, hoping to keep youngsters out of trouble. But he had just five instruments to share, and the kids often grew restless, irritating Chavez's boss.

So Chavez asked one of the trash-pickers, Nicolas Gomez, to make some instruments from recycled materials to keep the younger kids occupied.

"He found a drum and repaired it, and one thing led to another. Since he had been a carpenter, I asked him to make me a guitar. And so we just kept at it," Chavez said.

Come April, the classical stringed instruments that Gomez has made in his workshop alongside his pigs and chickens will be on display in Phoenix alongside one of John Lennon's pianos and Eric Clapton's guitars.

"I only studied until the fifth grade because I had to go work breaking rocks in the quarries," said Gomez, 48. But "if you give me the precise instructions, tomorrow I'll make you a helicopter!"

The museum also will display wind instruments made by Tito Romero, who was repairing damaged trumpets in a shop outside Asuncion until Chavez came calling and asked him to turn galvanized pipe and other pieces of scavenged metal into flutes, clarinets and saxophones.

"It's slow work, demanding precision, but it's very gratifying," Romero said. "Chavez is turning these kids of Cateura into people with a lot of self-esteem, giving them a shield against the vices."

Ada Rios, a 14-year-old first violinist, greeted the AP with sleepy eyes and a wide smile at her family's home on the banks of a sewage-filled creek that runs into the Paraguay River.

"The orchestra has given a new meaning to my life, because in Cateura, unfortunately, many young people don't have opportunities to study, because they have to work or they're addicted to alcohol and drugs," she said.

Her little sister Noelia announced with the innocence of a 12-year-old that "I'm famous in my school thanks to being in the orchestra."

Their 16-year-old aunt next door, Maria Rios, 16, also is a violinist.

"My mother signed me up in teacher Chavez's school three years ago. I was really bothered that she hadn't asked me first, but today I'm thankful because she put my name in as someone who wanted to learn violin," Maria said.

Her mother, Miriam Rios, who has 14 children in all, said Maria was born when she was 45.

"My neighbors said she

would be born with mental problems because I was so old, but an artist was born!" Rios said, her voice breaking with pride as she brushed away tears.

The children gathered in a schoolyard to perform for the AP, sharing their pride as they tuned their instruments.

Victor Caceres, playing a cello made from a red-and-white drum, said "this recycled instrument has no reason to envy those that are, apparently, more proper. It comes out with an impeccable sound."

Standing beside him, 15-yearold Brandon Cobone supported a double bass violin made from a tall yellow barrel. He said the instrument always draws curious attention, "but it sounds marvelous."

The kids played without complaint for 40 minutes in 100-degree (38-degree Celsius) heat and humidity. Frank Sinatra's "My Way" and "New York, New York" led to Mozart's "A Little Night Music" and some Paraguayan polkas.

Chavez's kids will be performing at Asuncion's shopping centers during the holidays.

"We'll get some money, not very much, but it will help these families from Cateura," he said. "They'll be able to enjoy a good Christmas dinner."

### **Do Your Part:**

## Easy and eco-friendly housewarming gifts

By TERRI BENNETT

MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Housewarming gifts are always a nice touch. When you're thinking up the next one you'll be giving, Do Your Part and keep the planet in mind. I've got some inspiring ideas that will make it easier than ever to give thoughtful gifts for the new homeowner.

If you usually get cut flowers, try swapping them out for a potted plant instead. They will last years instead of days and are usually grown in local nurseries just miles from where you live.

You can also choose interesting—and edible—gifts. Things such as mushroom-growing kits or herb gardens are items the new homeowners can watch grow and use in all kinds of recipes. Packets of various seeds are fun for families of all ages looking to use their green thumb in their new home. Present the packets tied up in a ribbon or in small growing pots. And, for those families wanting to go the extra mile, cute but useful food composting containers for the kitchen make an ideal gift!

One of my favorite gifts to give is the gift of a healthy home. Creating a green cleaning kit as a housewarming present is useful and unique. Make it super easy for the recipients to get started by packing up everything you need including white vinegar for all purpose cleaning, baking soda for non-abrasive scrubbing, borax for fighting mold, or plant based cleaners off store shelves. Add in some reusable cloths or eco-friendly paper towel alternatives and you're good to go!

If you want to go a more traditional housewarming-gift route, you can still choose safer and eco-friendly options. A few sweet smelling soy candles are a much safer alternative to petroleum based ones. A local wine is a better choice than a bottle from a winery across the globe. And, a traditional gift basket with foods can be created with local and organic goodies of all kinds.

Be creative and Do Your Part when giving housewarming presents this New Year. It can be a gift for your friends and the planet at the same time.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of "Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living" available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.



In this Dec. 8, 2012 photo, a saxophone repaired with coins and keys by Tito Romero sits in Romero's workshop at his home in Capiata, Paraguay. Romero was repairing damaged trumpets in a shop outside Asuncion until Favio Chavez, the creator of "The Orchestra of Instruments Recycled From Cateura," asked him to turn galvanized pipe and other pieces of metal into flutes, clarinets and saxophones for his students

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 **19** 

# Life & Style

TERESA CEROJANO

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The ghetto called Aroma reeks of putrefying trash collected by its residents for recycling. Halfnaked children with grimy faces play on muddy dirt roads lined by crumbling shanties of tarpaulin walls, cracked tin roofs and communal toilets.

From this Manila slum of garbage collectors emerged an unlikely Cinderella: ballerina Jessa Balote who at the age of 10 was plucked out of her grubby life by a ballet school to prepare her for a life on stage.

In four years since her audition in 2008, Jessa has performed in various productions, including Swan Lake, Pinocchio, Don Quixote and a local version of Cinderella. She rode a plane for the first time in August to compete in the 2012 Asian Grand Prix ballet competition for students and young dancers in Hong Kong, where she was a finalist.

The 14-year-old Jessa's unlikely success is as much a celebration of a unique effort by the Philippines' most famous prima ballerina, Lisa Macuja, to help slum kids of Manila by providing them a scholarship and classical ballet training for six to seven years.

More than a quarter of the Southeast Asian nation's 94 million people live in abject poverty, many in sprawling and unsanitary shantytowns like Aroma in the capital city. Despite a recent economic upturn, there are not enough full-time jobs. Education skills are lacking and incomes are low. At least 3,000 Filipinos leave their families behind every day to seek employment abroad.

Jessa, who would have likely followed her family to a life of garbage picking, had not much of a future to look forward to.

"I used to tag along with my father and mother when they collected garbage in the evening," Jessa said in her home about the size of a shipping container with a small attic.

Her family would gather trash from houses in the nearby Quiapo district or rummage for scrap metal in the huge garbage dump not far from home.

That was until her successful audition for the Project Ballet Futures dance scholarship established by Macuja, founder and artistic director of Ballet Manila who is married to business tycoon Fred Elizalde.

The outreach program of Ballet Manila—which runs a dance company and a school by the same name—initially accepted 40 students from Jessa's charity-run school in Manila's

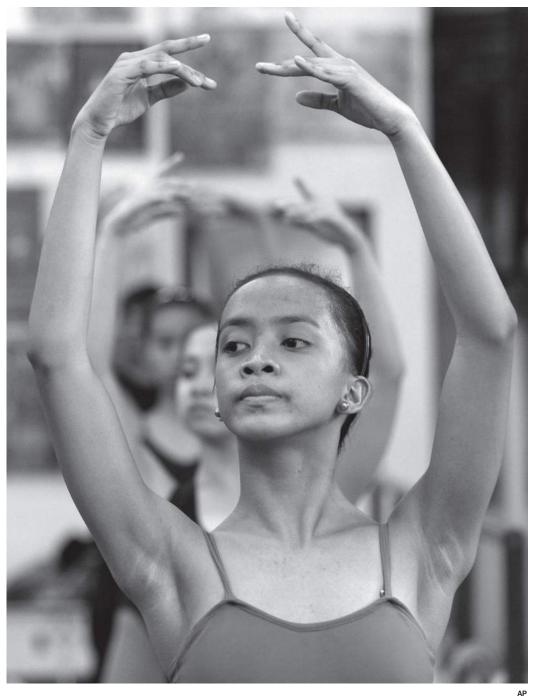
Tondo district dump site. Some dropped out, but new batches have been accepted.

Today, the program has 55 scholars, aged 9 to 18, from five partner public schools such as Jessa's. They train daily after school along with 60 paying students.

"I can help my parents more with what I do now. I earn money from ballet," said Jessa, sitting on a plastic bench in her shorts and t-shirt, her long hair loose. The slim teenager, perhaps so used to dancing on her toes, would often have her toes pointed at the wooden floor even while sitting during the interview.

Behind her, the plywood wall of the family shack was adorned with pictures of her in gossamer tutu on stage. Sharing the space were frames of ballet certificates and a newspaper clipping about the garbage picker-turned-ballerina. A pair of satin pointe shoes lay on top of a gym bag, a few meters (yards) from sacks of used plastic bottles and other garbage piled up outside the door of her cramped home. Jessa and other kids are trained in the rigorous Russian Vaganova ballet and are required to keep up with their academics in school. They are provided a monthly stipend of 1,200 pesos to 3,000 pesos (\$30 to

# From a Manila slum emerges an unlikely ballerina



In this photo taken Nov. 25, 2012, Filipino slum dweller Jessa Balote rehearses during a class at Ballet Manila in the Philippine capital.



In this photo taken Dec. 4, 2012, Filipino slum dweller Jessa Balote uses her smartphone beside a wall filled with her ballet certificates and pictures inside her cramped home at a place called Aroma in Tondo, Manila, Philippines.

\$73) depending on their ballet level, as well as meals, milk and ballet outfits. They also receive fees of 400 pesos to 1,500 pesos (\$10 to \$37) for each performance.

Pointe shoes alone cost \$50 to \$80 a pair—a fortune for someone eking a living on \$2 a day days, said Macuja.

The daughter of a former senior trade official, Macuja was 18 years old when she received a two-year scholarship at the Vaganova Choreographic Institute (now the Academy of Russian Ballet) in Saint Petersburg in 1982, where she graduated with honors.

She was the first foreign principal ballerina for the Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg before returning to the Philippines, where she worked as artist-in-residence at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and a principal dancer at the Philippine Ballet Theatre.

Macuja, 48, founded Ballet Manila in 1994 with the aim of making the high art of classical ballet more accessible to common people. The dance company has held performances in malls, schools, town halls and remote villages of the archipelago. She set up the scholarship program in 2008 as a way of paying back for her good fortunes.

For Jessa and the other slum children, it opened a whole new world. Literally so, when she flew to Hong Kong for the ballet competition.

Her glee while on a roller coaster in Disneyland was captured in a photo in her humble home.

During the competition in Hong Kong, she said she often felt nervous and shy to be dancing among well-off peers. But she overcame her fear, remembering Macuja's advice "to persist despite the odds and to not let poverty hinder me."

As a company apprentice she makes around 7,000 pesos (\$170) a month, sometimes more, from stipend and performance fees. The money is not enough to lift her family from poverty, but ballet has given her a choice in life.

Her father, Gorgonio, works part-time as a construction worker besides collecting garbage. His meager pay is insufficient to feed his large family of six children and two grandchildren. One son works in a factory while another daughter collects garbage.

Jessa's childhood dream is to become a school teacher. But she also wants to dance as a professional ballerina. She says she is challenged by the feisty acting and difficult dance turns of the Black Swan character in Swan Lake and aspires for that role.

For Jamil Montebon, another Project Ballet's beneficiary, the scholarship was a life saver.

The troubled 18-year-old has left his broken family in a violent slum community not far from Aroma.

He became a ballet scholar at 13 but then dropped out of high and wear out within weeks or school and ballet last year after a fight with his mother. During his time off from ballet and school, he collected garbage and worked in a junk shop. At night he would go drinking with other kids who often clashed with rival gangs, then sleep in a church where he got one free meal a week.

He was later accepted back into the program, which demands that children keep good grades and stay out of trouble. After shaping up, he moved into Ballet Manila's dormitory.

"I think that the key really is that these kids have been given hope, and that hope will transform their lives," Macuja said.

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### **NOW SHOWING \***



### Django Unchained

Tuesday 12:55 4:10 7:35 10:00 Wed and Thurs 12:55 4:10 7:35

Cast: Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Waltz

### Synopsis.

Quentin Tarantino heads to western territory with Django Unchained, race relations in the South.



### **Parental Guidance**

7:30 10:55 4:30 4:30 7:30

Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Old school grandfather Artie (Billy Crystal), who is accustomed to calling the shots, meets his match when he and his eager-to-please wife Diane (Bette Midler) agree to babysit their three grandkids when their type-A helicopter parents (Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott) go away for work. But when 21st century problems collide with Artie and Diane's old school methods of tough rules, lots of love and old-fashioned games, it's learning to bend – and not holding your ground – that binds a family together.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Jack Reacher

4:00 7:00 10:45 Wed and Thurs 1:00 4:00

Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall Genre: Thriller • Rated PG 13



### This Is 40

4:25 7:25 9:55 Wed and Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Cast: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Jason Segel, Megan Fox



### Monsters Inc. 3D

7:05 9:50 1:05

Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G



### The Guilt Trip

7:20 9:40

Cast: Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand, Kathy Najimy Genre: Comedy • Rated R



### The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Tuesday 12:55 Wed and Thurs 12:55 7:45

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



### The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Tuesday Wed and Thurs 4:10

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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# Review: Hooper's 'Les Miserables' is relentless

By CHRISTY LEMIRE AP MOVIE CRITIC

Tom Hooper's extravaganza, big-screen telling of the beloved musical "Les Miserables" is as relentlessly driven as the ruthless Inspector Javert himself. It simply will not let up until you've Felt Something-powerfully and repeatedly—until you've touched the grime and smelled the squalor and cried a few tears of your own.

It is enormous and sprawling and not the slightest bit subtle. But at the same time it's hard not to admire the ambition that drives such an approach, as well as Hooper's efforts to combine a rousing, old-fashioned musical tale with contemporary and immediate aesthetics. There's a lot of hand-held camerawork here, a lot of rushing and swooping through the crowded, volatile slums of Victor Hugo's 19thcentury France.

Two years after the release of his inspiring, crowd-pleasing "The King's Speech," winner of four Academy Awards including best picture, Hooper has vastly expanded his scope but also jettisoned all remnants of restraint.

But he also does something clever in asking his actors sing live on camera, rather than having them record their vocals in a booth somewhere as is the norm, and for shooting the big numbers in single takes. The intimacy can be uncomfortable at times and that closeness highlights self-indulgent ten-



This undated publicity photo provided by Universal Pictures shows Oscar®-winner, Russell Crowe, as Javert, in a scene from the film, "Les Misérables."

dencies, but the meaning behind lyrics which have become so well-known shines through anew. You'd probably heard "I Dreamed a Dream," the plaintive ballad of the doomed prostitute Fantine, sung countless times even before Susan Boyle unfortunately popularized it again in 2009. An emaciated and shorn Anne Hathaway finds fresh pain and regret in those words because her rendition is choked with sobs, because it's not perfect.

That's definitely part of the on the role.

fascination of this version of "Les Miserables": seeing how these A-list stars handle the demands of near-constant singing. Hugh Jackman, as the hero and former prisoner Jean Valjean, is a musical theatre veteran and seems totally in command (although the higher part of his register gets a bit nasal and strained). Amanda Seyfried, as Fantine's daughter, Cosette, whom Jean Valjean adopts, had already proven she can sing in "Mamma Mia!" but hits some freakishly high notes herewhich isn't always a good thing. Eddie Redmayne is a lovely surprise as the love-struck revolutionary Marius. And of course, Samantha Barks gives an effortless performance as the lonely and doomed Eponine-everyone here is doomed, it's "Les Miserables"-a role she'd performed on the London stage.

And then there's Russell Crowe as the obsessed lawman Javert, who has pursued Jean Valjean for decades for breaking his parole and insists he's still a dangerous man, despite the pious and prosperous life Valjean has forged. Although Crowe has sung in rock bands for years, he's vocally overmatched here, which strips the character of the menace that defines him. Seeing him sing opposite Jackman makes you wish you could watch these same actors having these same conversations with, like, actual words. But again, it's hard not to appreciate the effort, the risk it required to take

# Robert Frost's Christmas cards collected in NH

HANOVER, N.H. (AP)— Take heart, holiday procrastinators: Famed poet Robert Frost once waited until July to get his Christmas cards in the mail.

Unlike the flimsy, forgettable cards of today, however, Frost's cards arguably were worth the wait. For the past 28 years of his life, he teamed up with a boutique printer to send beautifully illustrated booklets featuring a different poem for each year.

Dartmouth College, which Frost briefly attended as a student and later returned as a lecturer, has collected more than 500 of the cards, including the first installment, which was sent without Frost's knowledge.

In 1929, Joseph Blumenthal of the New York-based Spiral Press, who was setting type for one of Frost's poetry collections, decided the poem 'Christmas Trees' would make an attractive greeting card. With permission from Frost's publisher, he printed 275 copies, one of which eventually made its way to Frost. The poet liked it so much, he decided to collaborate with Blumenthal on cards starting in 1934. The resulting series lasted until 1962, the year before his death.

"It was one of the more fun



To Un Baky Library from Robert From

In this photo provided by Dartmouth College, one of Robert Frost's Christmas cards is seen.

things about him," said Frost biographer Jay Parini, a professor at Vermont's Middlebury College. He called the cards a "remarkable tradition" that's carried out by other poets today.

Many of Frost's cards feature woodcut illustrations evoking the New England landscape

with which he was so deeply associated. Printed on heavy cardstock, some run to 10 or 15 pages. The 1942 card included a handcolored illustration of a country village and the poem "The Gift Outright," which Frost, who won four Pulitzer Prizes for poetry, later recited from memory

at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy.

Many in the Dartmouth collection were sent to Frost's close friend and editor Edward Lathem, whose nearly six decades of work at the Ivy League school included a long stint as head librarian.

In 1959, the card featured a previously unpublished poem called "A-Wishing Well," and on Lathem's copy, Frost inserted two hand-written lines in the poem.

Parini said that was not unusual for Frost, who often inscribed first editions of his books with little notes for his friends, or sometimes even complete, unpublished poems.

"He liked to personalize things," he said.

In 1951, Frost accompanied a card featuring the poem "A Cabin in the Clearing" with this note to Dartmouth bookstore employee Ruby Dagget: "in hopes that you will carry it like a lesson to your schoolhouse in the wilds of Vershire," a nearby Vermont town.

In one of his 1953 cards, he explained why the poem "Does No One at All But Me Ever Feel This Way in the Least?" was postmarked July instead of December.

# 2 actors we loved knowing, who seemed to know us

**NEW YORK** (AP)—What a couple of mugs, sporting less-than-perfect physiques in the bargain.

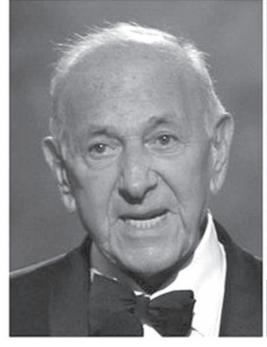
But was there anything lovelier than Jack Klugman or Charles Durning doing what they did for an audience?

Rumpled Klugman exploding at his prissy flat-mate Tony Randall in the long-running sitcom "The Odd Couple." Portly Durning hoofing, fleet of foot, and singing how "Ehttp://wwwww, I love to do a little sidestep" in the film "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Each was a luminous display of the extraordinary possibilities of the ordinary.

Klugman and Durning (both of whom died Monday, Klugman at 90 in Los Angeles, Durning at 89 in New York) spent storied careers building catalogues of roles that classed them indisputably as "character actors."

Even with a certain "alwaysa-bridesmaid-never-a-bride" taint attached to it, the term "character actor" commands respect and affection among audiences, even audience members who may not quite realize their level of investment in such artistry.

Traditional stardom—"leading man" status—is conferred on the actors who embody a fantasy, an ideal. They are famously out of reach of a ticket holder or a couch potato, other than through sitting back and watching from afar. Dreams are a powerful engine of Hollywood, and these actors—whether Clark Gable or Will Smith—are





This combination of Associated Press file photos shows, Jack Klugman, left, speaking at the 62nd Annual Tony Awards in New York on June 15, 2008 and Charles Durning, right, during the 14th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

thrilling dream agents.

But there's another breed of actor—the group in which Klugman and Durning reign supreme—who sustains us in more comfortable ways. If a star like Brad Pitt stirs the frisson of eternal longing in the audience (oh, to be with him, or be him!), a character actor serves another need: cinematic kinship.

Klugman solving crimes as a lab geek on his series "Quincy, M.E.," or Durning as a stressed-out cop ("Dog Day Afternoon") or a romantic who's smitten with Dustin Hoffman in drag ("Tootsie")—these are actors

we identify with, instantly and eagerly. Nothing seems to stand between us and what they do. They, with their just-coping-with-life heroics, show us who we are, or could be if we try a little harder (or warn us of the jam that might befall us if we don't). They are our proxies.

They never go out of style. They never lose their appeal. They are never put away because their looks have faded or their waistline thickened. We stick with them, just as they stick with us. (Durning was working into his late 80s in a recurring role as the irascible fa-

ther of Denis Leary's firefighter protagonist on the drama "Rescue Me"). In this way, too, they resemble everybody we truly love: We love them in every phase of their lives.

Like most of us, the character actor seldom if ever gets the girl or saves the world. They aren't flashy. But with their own special magnetism, they remind us, in role after role, that everyday people are special, too.

Sure, we love being dazzled by Hollywood glamour. We love stars who make us weak in the knees.

But an actor like Klugman or Durning bears a message that applies far beyond the realm of Tinseltown, a message worth remembering with every performance: Beauty is, as beauty does. Now, with their passing, we don't feel the pain of loss as much as gratitude for all the happy hours shared with Durning and Klugman. We are so glad for knowing them. Never mind we never met.

### Jessica Simpson's Christmas gift: She's pregnant

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jessica Simpson's daughter has the news all spelled out: "Big Sis."

Simpson on Tuesday tweeted a photo of her baby daughter Maxwell playing in the sand, the words "Big Sis" spelled out.

The 32-year-old old singer and personality has been rumored to be expecting again. The tweet appears to confirm the rumors.

"Merry Christmas from my family to yours" is the picture's caption. Simpson used a tweet on Halloween in 2011 to announce she was pregnant with Maxwell. She is engaged to Eric Johnson and gave birth to Maxwell in May.

One possible complication regarding her pregnancy: She is a spokeswoman for Weight Watchers.

# Sympathy is wearing thin for needy, demanding friend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: How can I set healthy boundaries with my best friend without feeling guilty? I have always been supportive and available because I sympathized with her difficult family dynamics during childhood and adulthood. She often talks to me about her problems with family and ever-changing relationships with men, but rarely allows me or others to share their points of view or



DearAbby

personal concerns. Saying "no" to her is challenging under any circumstance, and she demands that all focus be on her in social situations.

I love and accept my friend as she is, and I try to give her all the grace I have. I now realize that setting healthy boundaries is the only way I can sustain our friendship. I know this dynamic may put a strain on our relationship, so why do I feel so guilty?

TESTED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TESTED: That's a good question, and one that I can't definitively answer for you. It's possible that like many women, you were raised to believe that if you assert yourself you won't be considered "nice." That's a mistake because as long as you allow this friend to take advantage of you—and that is what she's doing—the more your resentment will build until the relationship becomes one of diminishing returns. So tell this self-centered person as nicely as possible that you are not a therapist, and because her problems persist, she should talk to one.

DEAR ABBY: I was shocked the other day when a friend of mine said that many women remain in terrible marriages because of finances. She said those types of marriages are accepted worldwide, so why not in America? She also said she thinks that shame is attached if a woman admits the only reason she is staying with her husband is a monetary one.

The women she was talking about are baby boomers and older. After thinking about it, I remember my mother and mother-in-law saying that money was why they remained in their marriages. Is this as prevalent as my friend stated? I find it sad that this could be true. It reminds me of the Tina Turner song—what's love got to do with it? Could you comment, please?

IN IT FOR LOVE

DEAR IN IT: If you're asking if I have statistics on the number of women who stay married only for economic reasons, the answer is no. Most of the people who write to me are unhappy, which would skew the numbers in a negative direction.

I hope you realize that the women you have described—an older demographic—were probably not economically independent when they married. It was common in their generation to go straight from their parents' houses to their husbands'. For many years I—and my mother before me—have urged women to make sure they are self-supporting before they marry, "just in case" they may have to be afterward.

Staying in a marriage without love is like serving a life sentence with an incompatible cellmate. Your mother and mother-in-law have my sympathy, and so do their husbands.

DEAR ABBY: Do you ever get tired of giving advice to people who ask commonsense questions, or those who probably know the answer to their problems if they just thought it out?

JIM IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR JIM: The answer to your question is no. I love what I do and consider it an honor to be trusted. While the reply to a question may be obvious to you, it isn't to the person who asks me. Common sense tends to go out the window when there are strong emotions involved.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Queen delivers 1st Christmas message in 3D

**LONDON** (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II has hailed the holidays in a new dimension, delivering her Christmas message for the first time in 3D.

In the annual, prerecorded broadcast, the monarch paid tribute to the armed forces, "whose sense of duty takes them away from family and friends" over the holidays, and expressed gratitude for the outpouring of enthusiasm for her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The queen said she was struck by the 'strength of fellowship and friendship' shown by well-wishers to mark her 60 years on the throne.

"It was humbling that so many chose to mark the anniversary of a duty which passed to me 60 years ago," she said as footage showed crowds lining the Thames River in the rain earlier this year for a boat pageant. "People of all ages took the trouble to take part in various ways and in many nations."

The queen also reflected on Britain's hosting of the Olympic games in 2012, praising the "skill, dedication, training and teamwork of our athletes" and singling out the volunteers who devoted themselves "to keeping others safe, supported and comforted."

Elizabeth's message aired shortly after she attended a traditional church service at St.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II receives flowers from children after attending the British royal family's traditional Christmas Day church service in Sandringham, England, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012.

Mary Magdelene Church on her sprawling Sandringham estate in Norfolk.

Wearing a turquoise coat and matching hat, the monarch rode to church in a Bentley, accompanied by granddaughters Beatrice and Eugenie. Her husband, Prince Philip, walked from the house to the church with other members of the royal family.

Three familiar faces were missing from the family outing. Prince William is spending the holiday with his pregnant wife Kate and his in-laws in the southern England village of Bucklebury. Prince Harry is serving with British troops in Afghanistan.

After the church service, the royals usually gather to watch the queen's prerecorded television broadcast, a tradition that began with a radio address by King George V in 1932.

The queen has made a prerecorded Christmas broadcast on radio since 1952 and on television since 1957. She writes the speeches herself and the broadcasts mark the rare occasion on which the queen voices her own opinion without government consultation.

Her switch to 3D was not the only technological leap for prominent British figures this Christmas.

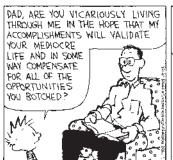
22 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes

### By Bill Waterson Garfield®

### By Jim Davis













### Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

### The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



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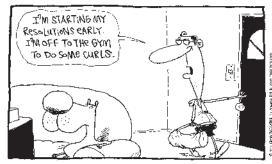
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### **CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer 38 Flushing **ACROSS** 57 Fish 10 "Jaws" 1 Emanaboat team eggs 58 Infamous 11 Blue hue 39 "CSI" tion evidence **5** — de Roman 19 "The deux 40 Khan title coast 8 Location **DOWN** clear" 42 Political 21 Individual 12 Fiddler, meeting 1 Derma-45 Hang tology 24 Mitt's e.g. 13 Right around subject Mrs. 49 Scandi-25 Island angle 2 Caspian 14 Father navian feeder neckwear 26 Fou-(Fr.) 3 Hindu city 15 "Peter 50 Mai cault's princess Pani (cocktail) 4 Calculagadget 52 Symbol of 28 Sailor's pooch tor's 16 Ultrathinness ancestor assent mod-53 Poker 5 Occult 29 Fine ernist variety 30 Humor five-17 Machu 54 Wood-31 Brooklynpointed Picchu shaping star born builder 6 Hearty rapper 18 Bring 55 Oklabrew 36 Write 7 No forth homa cryp-20 Northern neatnik city tograms 8 Ghost **22** Mex 56 Fourth 37 Greek neigh ross

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: CE-LEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayley Williams, 24; Emilie de Ravin, 31; Aaron Stanford, 36; Gerard Depardieu, 64.

Happy Birthday: Ease into whatever you are trying to achieve. Don't put a time limit on what you can do. Concentrate more on quality, detail and exposing a unique style that will differentiate you from competition. Let relationships between you and your peers develop naturally and you will gain a great deal from the information shared. Avoid personal changes. Your numbers are 4, 10, 13, 20, 26, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Talk to someone you look up to or who has experience you can benefit from. Change is required, but you have to figure out what's best for you and implement it for anything good to happen. Don't procrastinate—discover your talent.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make plans. You don't want to be left behind. Be the one to suggest trying something new or going somewhere you've never been before. Don't hold back—take action and turn your thoughts into reality. An interesting connection

with a co-worker will surprise you. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can score big if you put a little muscle behind your ideas. A partnership will take a positive turn and develop into something very special. Speak up, share your thoughts and you will find out how much you have in common. •••

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't fold under pressure. Look for a creative way to bypass someone trying to corner you.

Trust in yourself and your own expertise to get what you want and when. Change isn't always the answer. Work with what you have.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Shopping, traveling and finding entertaining ways to spend your time will highlight your day. Love is on the rise and an interest someone has in you will lead to positive future prospects. A physical change will result in compliments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you contribute to your community or to those less fortunate will help you find a new outlet for a talent you have or a service you can offer. Don't allow negativity or uncertainty to stifle your plans. Show compassion and strength.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Embrace the spotlight and make the first move. You must make a statement if you want to be noticed. A change in the way you do things will lead to interesting new friendships and new plans 

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Dive into unusual forms of entertainment, hobbies or art forms you've never engaged in before and you will discover an interest that you can incorporate into your work as well as your personal life. Let your intuition guide you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Invite friends over. Entertaining others will add to your popularity and help you show off in front of someone you have been trying to get to know better or impress. Love and romance are highlighted, so don't waste timemake your move. OOO

**EUGENIA** 

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY





CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of personal and domestic responsibilities. Lend a helping hand to an older or younger friend or relative. Stick close to home and avoid impulsive activities that can lead to injury. Protect your assets and your secrets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a decision conducive to honoring a promise you made that will alter how you begin the New Year. Change is required if you are going to fulfill your dreams, hopes and wishes for the future. Listen to experience and good advice. Love prevails. OCOO

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Careful how you move forward. What you say will have a direct impact on the way you are treated. Don't look for sympathy. Emotional

matters will escalate, leaving you in an uncompromising position. Honesty will be necessary. Birthday Baby: You are unique, trendy and set

your sights high. You are unpredictable.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	4	9					1	
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8				4	2			
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

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12/27

WONDERWORD.	

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THER LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftower letters

MOONROOFS Solution: 6 letters														
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# LASSIFIED A

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has opening for:

(1) Sales representative Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent). Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in

order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products.

Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customer's orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

Minimum Qualifications: Two years experience as building maintenance repairer.

Duties: Repairs and maintains the building structures and equipment of the company's commercial and industrial premises, including such duties as pipe fitting, insulating, welding,

machining, carpentry, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, allgning, and balancing new equipment, and repairing buildings. Performs routine preventive maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, or the physical condition of building does not deteriorate. Inspects, operates, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions.

Assembles, installs, or repairs wiring,

electrical or electronic components, pipe systems, plumbing, machinery or equipme Repairs or replaces defective equipment parts, using hand tools and power tools, a reassembles equipment. Records type and cost of maintenance or repair work.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

(6) Fisherman, (4) Sales Representative, (1) Dive Master. Minimum salary Send resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O.Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

### LOOKING FOR JOB

I can drive big trucks and busses; do electrical, mechanic, farming, porter, construction, fishing, salesman, house worker and any laborer. Call 287-6686.

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Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00/month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHAapplicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipanproperties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security. laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipanproperties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

### **QQ RENT A CAR** Starting as \$29.99

without Insurance Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866 \$100 Security Deposit Required
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### **DPA CAR MART**

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins.

Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

### **Mayflower Corporation**

### (1) GRAPHIC ARTIST (1) MANAGER

- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Applicants may send resume to aolv002@gmail.com or call 888-2885

China Yanbian Foreign Eco. And Tech. peration Corporation Seoul One Restau Job Vacancy Announcement

### (1) Korean Cook

Must have at least 3 to 4 work experience Knowledge in speaking in Korean preferred Willing to work during holidays

Send resume to sang80@ymai**l**.com

### **CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT**

### **HARDT EYE CLINIC is in need** of the following:

Registered Nurse/Certified Diabates Educator (1) - Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Provides individualized self-management education/training to individuals and groups according to the Scope of Practice, Standards of Practice, and Standards of Professional performance for Diabetes Educators (AADE, 2005). Licensing or registration and certification for

Certified Optician (1) - Cut, grind, and polish eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other precision optical elements. Assemble and mount lenses nto frames or process other optical elements Includes precision lens polishers or grinders, enterer-edgers, and lens mounters. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This ncludes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. Certification and Advance Certification is required.

Diabetes Educator are required

Submit application at Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to MegaByte, Chalan Salary commensurate to credentials and qualification.

CMLC ARTHA CO., LTD. PMB 771 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

### Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) General Manager - \$1500.00 \$2000.00 pr month, 2 yrs management experience, professional scuba diver instructor, license preferred, proficiency in English and Japanese (read, write and

(1) Scuba Diving Instructor - \$1000.00 - \$1600.00, 2 years experience as a Licensed Professional Scuba Diving Instructor, Professional scuba Diving instructor license required, can read and write foreign language,

(2) Dive Master/Helper - \$1000.00 1400.00 per month, with minimum 1 year experience, professional scuba diver license required, can read, speak and write

Proofs of credentials are required Interested U.S. applicants, may email resume to Edward@miona-usa.com

One (1) Sales Representative

One (1) Building Maintenance Repairer

### PIAO INVESTMENT CORP.

**Job Vacancy Announcement** 

Three (3) years minimum experience as a professional sing/harmonize and play lead guitar and/or bass guitar. perform several musical Email resume to mapagahes@gmail.com.

musician. Must have the ability to Competent in the use of musical sequencer / PA systems and able to styles/music genre. Experience as sound technician is an advantage.

WHATZIT Solution: Split-second timing

### **CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES**

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### **CLASSIFIED LINER ADS**

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS		СОМВО
	(PRINT)	(PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-liner	\$24	\$45

### **ADVERTISING DEADLINE**

### **Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

### **Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### **CHECK YOUR ADS**

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

# TIMING TIM

www.facebook.com/dingbatsga

Find today's solution in classified section

### YK CORPORATION DBA SUNSHINE LAUNDRY

### **Industrial Laundry and Dry Cleaning** Workers (8) \$ 5.55/hour

Operate or tend washing or dry-cleaning machines to wash or dry-clean industrial or household articles, such as doth garments, suede, leather, furs blankets, draperies, linens, rugs, and carpets Includes spotters and dyers of these articles.

### Tasks:

- Receive and mark articles for laundry or dry cleaning with identifying code numbers o names, using hand / machine markers.
- Start washers, dry cleaners, driers, or extractors, and turn valves or levers to regulate machine processes and the volume of soap, detergent, water, bleach, starch, and other additives.
- Sort and count articles removed from dryers and fold, wrap, or hang them.
- Examine and sort into lots articles to be cleaned, according to color, fabric, dirt content, and cleaning technique required Load articles into washers or dry-cleaning
- Mix and add detergents, dyes, bleaches, starches, and other solutions and chemicals to
- clean, color, dry, or stiffen articles. Clean machine filters, and lubricate equipment. Remove items from washers or dry-cleaning machines
- Operate extractors and driers, or direct their
- Inspect soiled articles for stains, color imperfections, and to identify items requiring special treatment.

### Skills:

At least three (3) years work experience in the Hotel Laundry Dry Cleaning services. Must work flexible hours and on evenings, weekends and holidays. Knowledge in the operations and control of equipments or systems (Washing Machine, Steam Dryer, Folding Machine, etc.).

> Please send resume to YK Corporation, P.O. Box 502913 CK, Saipan MP96950 Closing Date: December 28, 2012

### **JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT -**WINCHELL'S DONUTS

- 2 vacancies for **Operations Managers.** Wage per hour depends on qualifications. College level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in supervising bakery operations Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred
- 2 vacancies for Sales Associates. Wage range \$5.55 to \$5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in sales. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages
- 6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers.** Wage range \$5.55 to \$5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate. must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location from 8am to 12 noon or email them to dennys@guam.net



# Heat win finals rematch over Thunder



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James and Kevin Durant exchanged words. Dwyane Wade and Serge Ibaka did a little shoving. Five technical fouls were called, and Russell Westbrook punched a table in frustration.

This NBA Finals rematch met expectations.

And like that series, it ended with Miami on top. James had 29 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, Wade scored 21, and the Heat survived a frantic finish to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 103-97 on Tuesday.

"Felt a little bit like a different month," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Regardless of what your script is coming into the game, when you play this team, it's not going to go according to script. They're too good."

But on this night, much like last June, the Heat were better.

Mario Chalmers scored a season-high 20 for the Heat, who were 19 for 19 from the foul line, the second-best effort in franchise history behind only a 30-for-30 game in Boston on March 24, 1993. Chris Bosh added 16 for Miami, which has beaten the Thunder five straight times going back to last June's title series.

Durant scored 33 points and Westbrook added 21 for Oklahoma City, but both Thunder stars missed potential game-tying 3-point attempts in the final seconds.

"It was a great game. I can't complain," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "We could have done a better job of not turning the ball over in the first half. All in all, it was a great game to play and a great game to coach. Unfortunately, we didn't come out with the win."

It's the first losing streak of the season for the Thunder, who had been 4-0 after losses. Ibaka and Kevin Martin each scored 15 for Oklahoma City.

The game had a little of everything - a fast start by the reigning champions, a one-handed dunk by James on an offensive rebound that will be added to his copious highlight reel, a scrum after a hard foul that led to double-technicals on Wade and Ibaka early in the fourth, an easy rally by the Thunder from an early double-digit deficit, and even workout partners in Durant and James barking back and forth in the final minutes.

Such was the intensity that James slumped over the scorer's table with 1:08 left, exhausted.

''I'm tired as hell right now," James said - and that was more than an hour after the game ended. With good reason. On an emotional day, there

was a wild finish.

Wade lost the ball on an ill-advised, behind-the-back dribble, and the turnover set up Durant for a two-handed dunk that got the Thunder within 96-95 with 44.1 seconds remaining.

Needing a stop on the next trip, the Thunder forgot to play defense instead. Kendrick Perkins and Ibaka both were confused on the ensuing Miami possession, and Bosh was left alone to take a pass from James and throw down a dunk that restored Miami's three-point edge.

"We went over and helped," Durant said. "We just needed to help on the backside. There was miscommunication but we still had a chance to go into overtime."

Two chances, actually.

Oklahoma City got within one when Durant made a jumper over James, but no closer. Ray Allen's two free throws with 15.6 seconds left made it 100-97, and Miami's last three points came from the line. Durant missed a 3-pointer that James contested, Westbrook wound up with a second chance that Wade defended, and the Thunder guard smacked a nearby table arguing that he was fouled.

"Part of the game," Westbrook said.

While the stars were stars, the Heat got help from one unexpected source. Chalmers was making everything, even unintended plays.

### Celtics 93. Nets 76

In New York, Rajon Rondo lost his cool, and any chance at history, in the second quarter when Boston last met Brooklyn.

This time, the second period featured some of the



Oklahoma City Thunder'S Thabo Sefolosha (2) and Kendrick Perkins (5) defend Miami Heat's Chris Bosh (1) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012, in Miami.

best basketball the Celtics have played this season.

Rondo scored 19 points in his first full game against the Nets this season, and the Celtics won 93-76 on Tuesday in another game with some heated moments between the division rivals.

Rondo, sidelined in the first meeting and thrown out of the second after shoving Nets forward Kris Humphries into the courtside seats, outplayed counterpart Deron Williams and helped the Celtics take control early.

"We moved the ball; we rebounded the ball," Rondo said. "They beat us pretty bad on the glass, so tonight we did an exceptional job on the glass, taking care of the defensive rebounds, and we got stops."

A month after the teams scuffled in Boston, there was another skirmish in the fourth quarter that resulted in four technical fouls. But that was the most fight the Nets put up in a disappointing performance on the national stage of the Christmas opener. They were never in the game after the first 20 minutes, and their fans headed to the exits with under 2 minutes left as a ''Let's go Celtics!" chant broke out.

"It was a big game for us. It was a division rival. We were ready for a big game. It just didn't happen," Williams said.

Rookie Jared Sullinger tied a career high with 16 points and Jeff Green had 15 for the Celtics (14-13), who avoided falling under .500 with just their second victory in six games.

The Celtics took control with a 23-5 run in the second quarter of the opener of their four-game road trip. They had 11 assists on 13 baskets and outscored the Nets 34-18 in the period after dropping the previous two meetings.

"It was good to get off to this start. It was good to finally play from start to finish, especially with the way we've been playing against Brooklyn," said Paul Pierce, who had just eight points on 3-of-10 shooting. "So it was a well-balanced game, but I'm happy with the start of the trip."

Gerald Wallace and Brook Lopez each scored 15 for the Nets, who have lost four of five. Struggling to find anything that worked, they played Lopez and fellow center Andray Blatche together with three guards at one point, but Brooklyn shot just 41 percent and committed 20 turnovers that led to 25 points.

### Lakers 100, Knicks 94

In Los Angeles, the pieces of the puzzle that have been the Lakers' confounding season so far are

starting to fall into place.

Kobe Bryant engineered a second-half comeback, the defense stepped up, and Los Angeles beat the New York Knicks, 100-94, extending its winning streak to five games.

"We're .500," a smiling Dwight Howard said. "We did it on Christmas, too. I knew this day would come."

Bryant scored 34 points in his NBA-record 15th Christmas Day game and Metta World Peace added 20 points and seven rebounds while defending Carmelo Anthony, whose 34 points led the Knicks. Anthony said he hyperextended his left knee, but expects to play on Wednesday in Phoenix.

Bryant, the league's leading scorer, has topped 30 or more points in nine straight games.

"If you're going to play on Christmas, it's always better to win. Makes it all worthwhile," said Bryant, who would soon hop a flight to Denver, getting there ahead of the Nuggets, who played the Clippers in the other half of the holiday doubleheader at Staples Center.

The Lakers improved to 14-14—9-9 under new coach Mike D'Antoni—and upped their holiday record to 21-18, including 13-9 at home. They returned to .500 for the first time since they were 8-8 on Nov. 30.

### Rockets 120, Bulls 97

In Chicago, Omer Asik enjoyed his trip back to Chicago. And he got help from James Harden and Jeremy Lin.

Asik returned to the United Center and had a double-double with 20 points and 18 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to a 120-97 win over the Chicago Bulls on Tuesday night.

It was his first trip to Chicago since signing with the Rockets in the offseason.

"Omer is a big-time player in the middle," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "Tonight he was blocking shots, getting rebounds, and outletting the ball for us. He's got a big body and sets wide picks for us. This was a very good game for him."

Harden scored 26 points and Lin added 20 points and 11 assists for Houston, which had all five starters score in double figures.

Chandler Parsons scored 23 points and Marcus Morris had 10.

Houston has won six of seven.

The Rockets had been just 3-7 on the road entering Tuesday, but a strong second quarter turned the holiday matchup into a blowout. The Rockets

outscored the Bulls 31-19 in the period to break the game open.

Lin capped a 14-2 run midway through the quarter with a drive and a layup to make it 55-34. He scored 12 in the second quarter and Harden had 13.

Houston led 58-41 at halftime.

"We are a very young team, but are continuing to learn and believe in our system," McHale said. Nate Robinson led the Bulls with 27 points, and Marco Belinelli scored 15.

### Clippers 112, Nuggets 100

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford led a dominant performance by the Los Angeles reserves with 22 points and the Clippers defeated the Denver Nuggets 112-100 on Tuesday night, extending their franchise-record winning streak to 14 games.

Matt Barnes added 20 points - one off his season high - as the bench outscored the Clippers starters 64-48 in claiming the NBA's best record at 22-6, one win better than Oklahoma City which lost to Miami earlier Tuesday.

Kosta Koufos and Jordan Hamilton scored 16 points each for Denver in the finale of a Christmas Day doubleheader at Staples Center. The Lakers, who will play the Nuggets on Wednesday night in Denver, beat the Knicks 100-94 in the first game.

Ty Lawson added 15 points for the Nuggets, who fell to 7-13 on the road, where 22 of their first 32 games are being played.

Crawford's 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter pushed the Clippers' lead to 20 points and kept the starters on the bench for the final 12 minutes. Coming into the game, their average margin of victory during the streak had been 13 points and they exceeded that when the Nuggets failed to make it close in the fourth.

Crawford scored eight points in the quarter. He leads the NBA's reserves in scoring, and topped 20 points for the 12th time this season.

Chris Paul led Los Angeles' starters with 14 points; Blake Griffin had 13; and Willie Green 11.

Denver rallied after halftime, using a 15-6 spurt to close to 73-63, capped by Andre Iguodala's free throw after Paul received a technical foul.

The Clippers answered with three consecutive 3-pointers, including two by Green, for an 84-67 lead. The Nuggets ran off seven in a row to get within 10 before the Clippers regrouped with a 9-2 run, capped by Paul's 3-pointer, that kept them ahead 93-76 heading into the fourth.

# Pagano back to coach Colts after cancer treatment



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— Chuck Pagano stepped to the podium Monday, hugged his team owner, thanked his family for its support and wiped a tear from his eye.

He might, finally, turn out the lights in his office, too.

Nearly three months to the day after being diagnosed with leukemia, the Colts' first-year coach returned to a team eager to reunite with a boss healthy enough to go back to work.

"I told you my best day of my life was July 1, 1989," Pagano said, referring to his wedding date. "Today was No. 2. Getting to pull up, drive in, get out of my car, the key fob still worked. I was beginning to question whether it would or not. When I asked for Bruce to take over, I asked for him to kick some you-knowwhat and to do great. Damn Bruce, you had to go and win nine games? Tough act to follow. Tough act to follow. Best in the history of the NFL. That's what I have to come back to."

The comment turned tears into the laughter everyone expected on such a festive occasion.

For Pagano and the Colts, Monday morning was as precious as anyone could have imagined when Pagano took an indefinite leave to face the biggest opponent of his life, cancer.

In his absence, all the Colts was win nine of 12 games, make a historic turnaround and clinch a playoff spot all before Sunday's regular-season finale against Houston, which they pegged as the day they hoped to have Pagano back. If all goes well at practice this week, Pagano will be on the sideline for the first time since a Week 3 loss to Jacksonville.

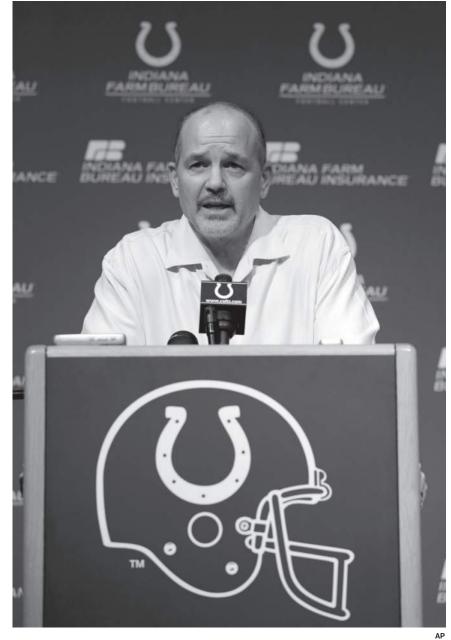
Pagano endured three rounds of chemotherapy to put his cancer in remission.

That Pagano's return came less than 24 hours after Indy (10-5) locked up the No. 5 seed in the AFC and the day before Christmas seemed fitting, too.

"I know Chuck is ready for this challenge. In speaking to his doctor multiple times, I know that the time is right for him to grab the reins, get the head coaching cap on and begin the journey," owner Jim Irsay said. "It's been a miraculous story. It really is a book. It's a fairytale. It's a Hollywood script. It's all those things but it's real."

The reality is that he's returning to a vastly different team than the one he turned over to Arians, his long-time friend and first assistant coaching hire.

Back then, the Colts were 1-2 and most of the so-called experts had writ-



Indianapolis Colts head coach Chuck Pagano speaks during a news conference Monday, Dec. 24, 2012, in Indianapolis. Pagano returns to the team after undergoing successful leukemia treatment.

ten them off as one of the league's worst teams. Now, they're ready to show the football world that they can be just as successful under Pagano as they were under Arians, who tied the NFL record for wins after a midseason coaching change.

Pagano also has changed.

The neatly-trimmed salt-and-pepper hair and trademark goatee that were missing in November have slowly returned, and the thinner man who appeared to be catching his breath during a postgame speech in early November, looked and sounded as good as ever Monday.

He repeatedly thanked fans for their prayers and letters, the organization and his family for their unwavering help and promised to provide comfort and support to other people who are facing similar fights. During one poignant moment that nearly brought out tears again, Pagano even recounted a letter sent to him by a 9-year-old child who suggested he suck on ice chips and strawberry Popsicles in the hospital and advised him to be nice to the nurses regardless of how he felt - and he never even paused.

"I feel great, my weight is back, my energy is back and again, it's just a blessing to be back here," Pagano said.

In the minds of Colts players and coaches, Pagano never really left.

He continually watched practice tape and game film on his computer, used phone calls and text messages to regularly communicate with players and occasionally delivered a pregame or postgame speech to his team.

"He texted me and called me so much, it was like he was standing there in my face every day," said receiver Reggie Wayne, who has been friends with Pagano since the two were working together at the University of Miami.

But the Colts found plenty of other ways to keep Pagano's battle in the forefront.

They began a fundraising campaign for leukemia research, calling it Chuckstrong. Players had stickers with the initials CP on their locker room nameplates, and Arians wore an orange ribbon on his baseball cap during games. Orange is the symbolic color for leukemia. At one point, nearly three dozen players shaved their heads to show their ailing coach they were with him.

That's not all.

Arians and first-year general manager Ryan Grigson decided to leave the lights on in Pagano's office until he returned. Pagano noted the team even installed plastic clips to make sure those lights were not mistakenly turned off while he was gone. Those clips were removed when Pagano arrived Monday morning.

And Arians said nobody sat in the front seat of the team bus.

"He's always been our head coach,"

So after getting medical clearance from his oncologist, Dr. Larry Cripe, to return with no restrictions, Pagano couldn't wait to get to the office Monday morning.

Arians arrived at 7 a.m., three hours early for the scheduled team meeting. By then, Pagano had already driven past the inflatable Colts player with the words "Welcome Back Chuck" printed on its chest and was back in his office preparing for the Texans.

Players showed up a couple of hours later, and when the torch was passed from Arians back to Pagano, players gave their returning coach a standing ovation that Wayne said was well-deserved.

All Pagano wants to do now is emulate the success Arians and his players have had this season.

"I asked him (Arians) if he would lead this team and this ballclub and this organization and take over the reins," Pagano said. "What a masterful, masterful job you did Bruce. You carried the torch and all you went out and did was win nine ballgames. You got us our 10th win yesterday and you got us into the playoffs. You did it with dignity and you did it with class. You're everything that I always knew you were and more."

Ibanez and the Seattle Mariners have agreed to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press last weekend.

The deal allows Ibanez to earn an additional \$1.25 million in performance bonuses, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced.

Ibanez returns to the team he began his big league career with from 1996-00, then rejoined from 2004-08.

Now 40, Ibanez spent the past season with the New York Yankees and became popular with fans for his late-game home

# N E W Ibanez, Mariners agree to \$2.75M deal

with New York, but the Yankees have moved slowly during the

Ibanez hit .240 with 19 homers and 62 RBIs in 384 at-bats, his pull swing making him a natural for the short right-field porch at Yankee Stadium. He batted just .197 with five RBIs in 61 at-bats against left-handers.

Including the playoffs, Ibanez hit five home runs that tied the score for the Yankees and eight that put New York ahead, according to STATS. He homered twice after entering as a pinch hitter on Sept. 22 in a 10-9, 14-inning win over Oakland. And with New York fighting for the AL East title,

R a u 1 runs. He had hoped to remain he delivered a tying, pinch-hit homer against Boston in the ninth on Oct. 2 and then singled in the winning run in the 12th.

Then in Game 3 of the division series against Baltimore, he became the first player in major league history to homer twice in a postseason game he didn't start. He pinch-hit for Alex Rodriguez in the ninth inning and hit a tying home run, then hit a winning shot in the 12th.

Three days later his two-run homer in a four-run ninth inning tied the AL championship series opener against Detroit, a game the Yankees lost 6-4 in 12 innings as the Tigers started their way to a four-game sweep.

Ibanez had a \$1.1 million base salary last season and earned another \$2.05 million in performance bonuses.

He joins a Seattle team that added power-hitting Kendrys Morales earlier in the week in a trade that sent left-hander Jason Vargas to the Los Angeles Angels. Former Yankees prospect Jesus Montero started 77 games at designated hitter last season for the Mariners and 55 behind the plate, so Ibanez's acquisition by the Mariners could make catcher John Jaso expendable. Jaso made 39 starts behind the plate and 44 at DH.

In 17 major league seasons that also included time with

Kansas City (2001-03) and Philadelphia (2009-11), Ibanez has a .278 career average with 271 home runs and 1,116 RBIs.

With Ichiro Suzuki likely to see most of his time in a corner outfield spot because New York hasn't attempted to re-sign Nick Swisher, Ibanez's departure leaves the Yankees searching for a left-handed bat for a parttime designated hitter role. New York's priority before filling that spot appears to be a right-handed bat because Andruw Jones left for Rakuten in Japan after a subpar season and all three starting outfielders - Suzuki, Curtis Granderson and Brett Gardner - are left-handed hitters.

Ibanez's deal was negotiated by agents Sam and Seth Levinson.

### Vikings vying for playoffs with sore Peterson

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—One year ago, Minnesota Vikings coach Leslie Frazier approached the postgame news conference and was ready to bask in the glory of a pre-Christmas victory that snapped a six-game losing streak, even though star running back Adrian Peterson's career was in doubt following a major knee injury.

That was then.

Now, Peterson leads the NFL with 1,898 yards rushing and is only 207 yards away from Eric Dickerson's single-season record, and is dealing with an abdominal injury. And he says he'll be ready to help Minnesota (9-6) in its bid to earn a playoff spot with a victory over the Green Bay Packers (11-4) on Sunday.

"To go through all those tough times the last couple years to get back to where we were in '09, to a point be in the playoff hunt and be on the doorstep now; I think the best part for us is, if you really want to prove it, you win this game, you're in," linebacker Chad Greenway said. "This is everything. All the chips are in now. We wanted this. We asked for it. Let's go. Let's not be scared of it, because there's nothing to lose at this point."

With Peterson leading the way and trying to become the seventh player in league history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season he needs 102 to join the club—Minnesota has made an unlikely late-season run to control its playoff destiny. The Vikings would clinch a postseason berth with a win over the NFC North champion Packers on Sunday. A loss by Minnesota opens several scenarios, which includes needing losses by the Chicago Bears (9-6), New York Giants (8-7) and Dallas Cowboys (8-7).

Peterson sat out the final minutes of Sunday's 23-6 win at Houston, with coach Leslie Frazier calling it a precautionary measure. He finished with 86 yards against the Texans, ending his streak of eight 100yard games.

"Adrian is a little bit sore with his abdominal muscle," Frazier said. "We'll have to see how he does this week, how much work that we'll give him as we get ready for this ball game, which will be a huge ball game for our team."

The Vikings are also expected to have 14-year veteran cornerback Antoine Winfield available. He suffered a "small" fracture in his hand Sunday. He played through the injury, and would wear a soft cast if he goes against the Packers.

# Pacquiao vs Mayweather could happen in September



between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

was initially supposed to be the ultimate debate settler. When it was first discussed, it was a bout pitting the two best pound-for-pounders in the world against one another in a battle would have determined who the true top dog was.

Now it just feels like unfinished business.

Following Pacquiao's knockout defeat to Juan Manuel Marquez, it is impossible to make the case for him being one of the

A super fight world's top one or two poundfor-pounders anymore. Similarly, given the trouble he had during the first half of the Miguel Cotto fight, one would be hard pressed to say that Mayweather is still at the top of his game.

> And yet, despite all that, even though we know that this fight isn't what it once could have been, it's hard not to want to see it happen just because there has been so much talk about it. It wouldn't settle anything. It wouldn't answer any questions. It was just be, from a purely superficial standpoint, a fun match-up to watch.

The question is, will it



**Pacquiao** 



Mayweather

Mayweather will fight either Robert Guerrero or Canelo Alvarez this coming May. Recent reports indicate that it will be Guerrero; however, 11 days ago Canelo made it seem like he was close to a deal. Either way, the undefeated champ will be booked for May. That being said - his September is wide open. And if he wants to fight twice this year -- like he previously said he did -- then September is the ideal time to schedule a second match.

Who will be available for a bout in September?

"[April] is too soon after [a

knockout like that]. We spoke about [his next fight]. I told him that I think he should come back around September and he agreed with me," Freddie Roach said recently (via Boxing Scene).

There is no guarantee that this fight will ever happen. Moreover, there isn't even a guarantee that Mayweather actually wants to fight twice this year. If he does, though, then taking on Pacquiao would make a whole lot of sense.

And if Pacquiao versus Mayweather doesn't happen in 2013, well, then it's never going to happen.

### KFAS

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TWO

From Page 28

scoreboard in the first 45 minutes of play, as KFAS dominated possession in the opening frame and on a few occasions that the former made attempts,

second thoughts and wasted 10

seconds before committing them.

It managed to steal the ball in the

last four seconds, however, Paga-

rao could not pull up for a shot in

time, as she just crossed midcourt

Pena top-scored for Swerve

with her 14 points, while Wil-

liams chipped in 12. Pagarao

led all scorers with her 29 mark-

ers, but failed to get the job done

for Air Apparent with her awful

free throw shooting percentage.

Hard recovered from its open-

ing loss to Swerve after defeat-

In the first game, Team Go So

when the buzzer sounded.

it either overshot its marks or goalie Yong Choi was there for the saves.

KFAS continued to hustle for the leather in the second half and got its third goal in the 60th with Lee attacking from the right wing and eluding his defenders anew for a cross. In-

Ira Palero and Jan Travilla

joined forces in Team Go So

Hard's victory, scoring 18 and

Rachel Abrams tallied 20

points for Team Four, which

missed back-to-back wins after

a so-so performance in the sec-

ond half. Team Four nailed only

6 points in the third period and 8

Abrams and Palero slugged it

out in the paint in the first pe-

riod, which ended with Team

Four slightly ahead, 11-10.

Abrams continued to assert her

might in the shaded lane in the

second canto, adding 6 more

points and matching Palero's

output to keep Team Four on

ing Team Four, 44-37.

16 points, respectively.

in the fourth.

ter Godfather's had a chance to avoid a shutout when Peter Loken was given a free kick off a KFAS violation, however the eventual runner-up failed to convert in that play and the Koreans hung in there to take the easy win.

Joining Lee, Choi, and Cho on

Tables turned in the second

half, as after making only two

field goals in the first half, Tra-

villa drilled 10 of Team Go So

Hard's 12 markers in the third

period. Palero scored the other

two points of Team Go So Hard,

which grabbed the driver's seat,

32-29. Team Four lost the lead,

as only Abrams found her target

Team Four continued to show

lackluster offense in the payoff

canto with Abrams limited to

one field goal and only two of

her teammates made it to the

scoreboard. In contrast, Team

Go So Hard had six players con-

tributing at least two points each

to take the 7-point win.

in the third canto.

top at the break, 23-20.

the champion team are Jin Koo Cho, Chong Koo Gil, Si Young Heo, Jeong Jun Jeon, Guan Zhi Jin, Ki Tae Kim, Scott Kim, Yeong Gil Kin, Brian Lee, Jae Wan Rhee, and Ji Sung Cha.

KFAS made it to the M-League FA Cup Finals after defeating Wild Bill's in the semis,

### **First Game**

Team Go So Hard 44 - I. Palero 18, Travilla 16, Diaz 4, Cristobal 2. Olivos 2, J. Palero 2.

20, Castillo 11, Ocampo 4, Badilles 2.

20-23, 32-29, 44-37.

### **Second Game**

Swerve 51 – Pena 14, Williams 12, K. Lebria 8, N. Lebria 7, Alegre 2, Reyes 2, Deleon Guerrero 2, Che 2.

**Team Four 37** – Abrams

Scoring by quarters: 10-11,

Air Apparent 48 – Pagarao 29, Ito 9, Gatchalian 4, Javier 3, Guevarra 2, Mendoza 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-5, 25-19, 37-28, 51-48. (Saipan Tribune)

### ALDRICH

From Page 28

the Top 10.

Other Division B players who

Charizama Aragon (3), Thin

Gramlich (3), Krizel Tuazon (3), Britally Wally (3), Luna Litulumar (2) Semona Igama (2), Elizabeth Phan (2), Mia Carreon (2), Madeleine Alegre (2), Miles Rodriguez (2), Amy Weiss (2), Yvonne Indalecio (2), Ferleen Esmundo (2), Ciara Apostol (2), Melissa Borja (2), and Akane Imaya (2).

Becky Robles, Melanie Santos, Leriza De Brum, Laarni Zapanta, Christina Aninzo, Resalie Litulimar, Melanie Nakamura, Kristine Gueverra, Rona Rojas, Chutima Borja, Reena Patel, Goldie Aque, and Mary Joyce Mangsongsong gained one goal each.

In Division A, it was a close race with Independents FC's Patroom Stoffer firing 11 to edge the 10 of Shirley's FC's

Jeraldine Castillo. Stoffer and Castillo were the only two players in their division to collect goals in twin digits.

MP United's Kyla Ito and Shirley's Irish Pagarao were tied for third with eight goals apiece, while Alexa Vergara, also of Shirley's, and MP United's Negahr Rastguiy were in solo fourth and fifth place with seven and six goals, respectively.

Paire's Kayleen Salle, MP United's Manami Tadokoro, and Shirley's Jhaneeka Atalig and Marielle Gariguez earned five goals each, while Paire's Patricia Coleman and Natalie Hill, Shirley's Melody Johnson, and IFC's Lindsay Davis tallied four apiece.

Others players who scored at

least one goal this season were Mikky Vargas (3), Rahtree Ditwiset (2), Terra Allen (2), Amy Taylor (2), Sara Allen (2), Jeralyn Castillo (2), Connie Camacho (2), Diane Pablo (2), Cathy Perry (1), Michelle Masga (1), Jayda Mendoza (1), Norleen Siech (1), and Megan Bragg (1).

In the team division, Division A champion Shirley's had the most goals with 35 and gave up only nine. MP United and IFC collected 19 and 18, respectively, while Paire tallied 14. Shirley's also led the goals race in Division B with its 64, followed by Matansa (60), Paire (55), division champion IFC 1 (42), MP United 1 (40), Tan Holdings (34), IFC 2 (32), and MP United 2 (6). (Saipan Tribune)

In the solo division, Danny

2-1, while Inter Godfather's took the other championship ticket after edging Paire Football Club, 4-3.

Matansa Football Club, Shirley's Football Club, and Kanoa Football Club also joined Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's season-ending tournament, but were ousted right in the first round of the single-elimination competition. Inter Godfather's knocked out Kanoa FC, 4-1, Paire FC eliminated Shirley's 4-0, and KFAS booted Matansa FC out, 4-1. and Matansa. (Saipan Tribune)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

**NBA STANDING** 

.714

.519

.519

.464

.321

.760

.640

.444

.259

.120

.571

.556

.538

.300

.724

.720

.556

.429

.185

.520

.517

.517

.500

.786

.643

.500

.393

.333

G FG FT PTS AVG

28 287 203 836 29.9

24 235 152 684 28.5

27 245 225 758 28.1

26 195 227 667 25.7

25 250 104 638 25.5

51/2

51/2

3

8

13

1/2

81/2

71/2

11

121/2

**EASTERN CONFERENCE** 

**Atlantic Division** 

Brooklyn

Toronto

Miami

Atlanta

Orlando

Charlotte

Indiana

Chicago

Detroit

Milwaukee

Cleveland

Memphis

San Antonio 21

New Orleans 5

Northwest Division

Minnesota

Utah

Portland

Washington

20 8

14 13

14 13

13 15

**Southeast Division** 

19

16

12 15

3 22

16 12

15 12

14 12

6 23

**Southwest Division** 

18

15 12

12 16

13 12

15 14

15 14

18 10

11 17

9 18

**Pacific Division** 

L.A. Clippers 22

Golden State

L.A. Lakers

Sacramento

Scoring

Bryant, LAL

Anthony, NYK

Durant, OKC

Harden, HOU

Phoenix

**Central Division** 

6

20

21

22

6

**NBA LEADERS** 

**WESTERN CONFERENCE** 

Wild Bill's drew a bye in the first round.

Tan Holdings FC and MP United, which ruled Divisions 1 and 2 of the M-League, respectively, missed the FA Cup. Wild Bill's, Inter Godfather's, and Paire will join the two champions in the next season of M-League's Division 1 contest.

KFAS, which finished last in Division 1 this season, is relegated to Division 2 and will play against Kanoa, Shirley's,

recorded more than one goal this season were Kate Campbell (7), Lily Williams (7), Kimberly Ada (7), Clarissa Mobel (7), Dyenina Diaz (6), Rachel Epperson (6), Rachel Abrams (5), Reylynn Sapong 95), Lydia Tan (5), Corquina Teregeyo (5), Mary Fem Urena (5), Anne Padilla (4), Michiko Tenorio (4), Maria Christine Castro (4), Vanessa Gramlich (4), Fish Wang (4), Jovelyn Epperson (4), Cleo Nening (3), Jazmine Rayphand (3);

Thin Conlon (3), Maryanna

### CHRISTMAS

From Page 28

U19 and U13 age groups. There should be one female member on the age group squads.

At the end of the competition. NMA will be handing out prizes to the "Best Christmas Group Spirit Attire" and "Best Support Vehicle." The association will also prepare breakfast for participants as an early New Year's Eve treat and appreciation to supporters of NMA's various activities through the years.

Team Track and Santa's Slaves topped last year's island relay. Team Track's Chad Lowe, Eric Bickel, Tom Linden, Kimiko McKagan, and Richard Sikkel clocked in at 1:32:31, just five seconds ahead of the Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel-anchored F-Faijuk. Kabiriel ran with his son Kevin, Jackson Soichy, Jimris Handrew, and Aivan Farewey.

In the student division, Santa's Slaves' Lia Rangamar, Beo Ngirchongor, Tanner Kenty, Reylynn Sapong, and Michael Mancao posted 1:33:56 to beat Hopwood's Mikayla Lopez, Nathaniel Montano, Kevin Jack Deleon Guerrero, Edgem Bedania, and John Christian Piring, who submitted 1:43:23.

Garcia (1:50:00) Fred Camacho (1:50:50) and Florence Antonio (1:56:30) rounded out the Top 3 and were joined on the finishers list by Roxie Lamar (2:00:16), Joshua Berger (2:01:05), Tamio Nishikido (2:01:10), Manny Castillo (2:03:00), Chang Wan Jang (2:06:12), and Natasha Kukuck (2:33:40). (Saipan Tribune)

### Westbrook, OKC 27 199 141 578 21.4 199 102 500 20.8 24 27 180 143 553 20.5 Pierce, BOS 28 195 92 565 20.2 Curry, GOL 234 91 559 Lee, GOL 22 165 99 435 19.8 Wade, MIA 26 186 116 506 19.5 Ellis. MIL 189 Mayo, DAL 28 94 541 Parker, SAN 27 199 101 512 19.0 26 165 95 484 Lillard, POR 182 99 Walker, CHA 495 Holiday, PHL 24 176 61 439 18.3 25 174 80 455 18.2 Gay, MEM 28 209 88 508 28 191 109 506 18.1 DeRozan, TOR

### **FG Percentage**

Chandler, NYK	129	187	.690
McGee, DEN	135	225	.600
Jordan, LAC	111	191	.581
Howard, LAL	175	306	.572
Ibaka, OKC	164	289	.567
Hickson, POR	131	231	.567
Lopez, NOR	133	241	.552
Landry, GOL	127	231	.550
Bosh, MIA	159	290	.548
James, MIA	250	459	.545

PCT

FGA

### **Rebounds**

	G	OFF	DEF	101	AVG
Varejao, CLE	25	138	223	361	14.4
Randolph, MEM	25	119	200	319	12.8
Howard, LAL	28	104	230	334	11.9
Asik, HOU	27	92	222	314	11.6
Lee, GOL	28	90	225	315	11.3
Hickson, POR	25	103	171	274	11.0
Noah, CHI	27	98	187	285	10.6
Duncan, SAN	28	50	235	285	10.2
Jefferson, UTA	28	62	223	285	10.2
Chandler, NYK	28	119	158	277	9.9

### **Assists**

R01100, BUS	24	200	11.9
Paul, LAC	28	266	9.5
Holiday, PHL	24	212	8.8
Vasquez, NOR	27	234	8.7
Westbrook, OKC	27	233	8.6
Williams, Bro	27	216	8.0
Calderon, TOR	28	210	7.5
Parker, SAN	27	194	7.2
Lawson, DEN	29	200	6.9
James, MIA	25	172	6.9

AST

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012 **27** 

# SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League Banquet



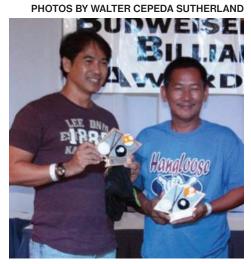
Rodel Dela Cruz, left, of the 19th Hole Bar's Titans II and IT&E Incredibles' Chester Hamoy pose with their MVP trophies during the awards banquet for the Saipan Billiards Association's 15th Budweiser Open 8-Ball League Summer/Winter Season held early this month at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.



IT&E Incredibles' Chester Hamoy, left, and Saipan Computer Services' Erwin Gomez show the Rack Runner trophies.



From left, Saipan Computer Services' Ricardo Reyes, Equalizers' Jerry Soriano, and the Eagles' Ken Phillips get their "8-Ball On Break Sinkers" awards for the Thursday League.



The Equalizers' Rowel Mariano, left, and Senen Pangelinan are presented with the top performer accolades in the Thursday League after racking up a league-high 24 assists each this season.



Saipan Computer Services/Jonny's Bar & Grill receives the Thurday League's Budweiser Cup spoils and team sportsmanship honors this season.



Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Equalizers players show their runner-up trophies in the regular season of the Thursday League.



Yuichiros Printing/Poseidon Bar & Grill members accept the team sportsmanship honors this season.



Six of the Tuesday League's eight "8-Ball On Break Sinkers" pose for a group picture



Members of Thursday League champion 19th Hole Bar's Titans II accept their regular season first place



Players of The Waterfront's Eight It! receive their third place trophy in the Thursday League.

**Pagano back** to coach Colts after cancer treatment



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**28** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2012



# Two straight victories for Swerve



Swerve showed poise in the homestretch to slip past Air Apparent, 51-48, in the second game in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas Basketball

Tournament last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Lily Williams delivered the clutch points and plays for Swerve, which improved to a 2-0 record and took the early lead in the four-team field, while Air Apparent missed a lot of free throws in the fourth quarter to drop to a 0-2 card.

Irish Pagarao, who made repeated trips at the stripe in the fourth, as Swerve entered the penalty mark midway in that canto, drilled her last free throw to tie the game, 45-all. with 1:14 left on the clock. Before her split,

Swerve's Joy Pena drives to the basket during their game against Air Apparent in the Kanoa Christmas caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Pagarao muffed eight charities which could have given Air Apparent the lead.

Instead, Swerve broke the deadlock, 47-45, as Nicole Lebria managed to jump a pass to Williams after being double teamed at the backcourt and then the latter found Joy Pena open underneath the basket for the easy shot.

An Air Apparent missed on the other end returned possession to Swerve and Williams made it a 4-point game, 49-45, after she was fouled on a fastbreak play and calmy sank the pair of free thrown.

Air Apparent cut the lead to a deuce anew off Marie Javier's basket in the paint, but Williams answered with a breakaway layup to give Swerve more distance. A split from Javier in the ensuing play kept Air Apparent's hopes alive, however Swerve still emerged victorious after melting the clock, which was down to less than 20 seconds.

Air Apparent had fouls to give, but had

See TWO on Page 26

### Christmas Island Relay this Sunday



The much-awaited 31st Annual Christmas Island Relay will hit the road this Sunday.

The Northern Marianas Athletics-hosted race will start at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and end at the Last Command Post in Marpi with runners negotiating the 13.7 mile course.

The weekend event will have team and individual races. The team division is open for fiveperson squads. Each member will alternately run after one mile and each team must have at least one U16 runner, a female, and one 40-and-above member. The team category will have races in the open division and the See CHRISTMAS on Page 26



Runners sprint to the finish line of last year's NMA Christmas Island Relay.

## Aldrich scores most goals in women's futsal league



Matansa Football Club's Maile Aldrich, second left, starts a play during their game against MP United 1 in Division B of the NMIFA women's futsal league early this month at the TSL Sports Complex.



If organizers of the 2012 NMI-FA Wom-

en's Futsal Fall League were to give a Golden Boot award for Division B, Matansa Football Club's Maile Aldrich would have been the handsdown choice for the plum.

The Matansa youth strikers collected 37 goals in 14 games, six more than the output of Paire Football Club's Guinevere Borja. Another youth player, Diana Maniacop (20) of Shirley's Coffee Shop made it to the Top 3 of the race for the most goals in Division B of the futsal league

that concluded early this month at TSL Sports Complex.

MP United 1's Zena Demapan and Matansa's Bernadette Horey came in at fourth with their 14 goals apiece, while three other female strikers drilled at least 10 goals apiece in the doubleround robin league. Independent FC 1's Temary Gramlich earned 13, Shirley's Elaine Enriquez had 12, and Tan Holding FC's Chloe Salvosa logged 10.

Salvosa's teammate Mary Kay Alferos posted nine, while MP United 1's Mei Demapan and IFC 2's Windy Orcine scored eight each to complete

See ALDRICH on Page 26